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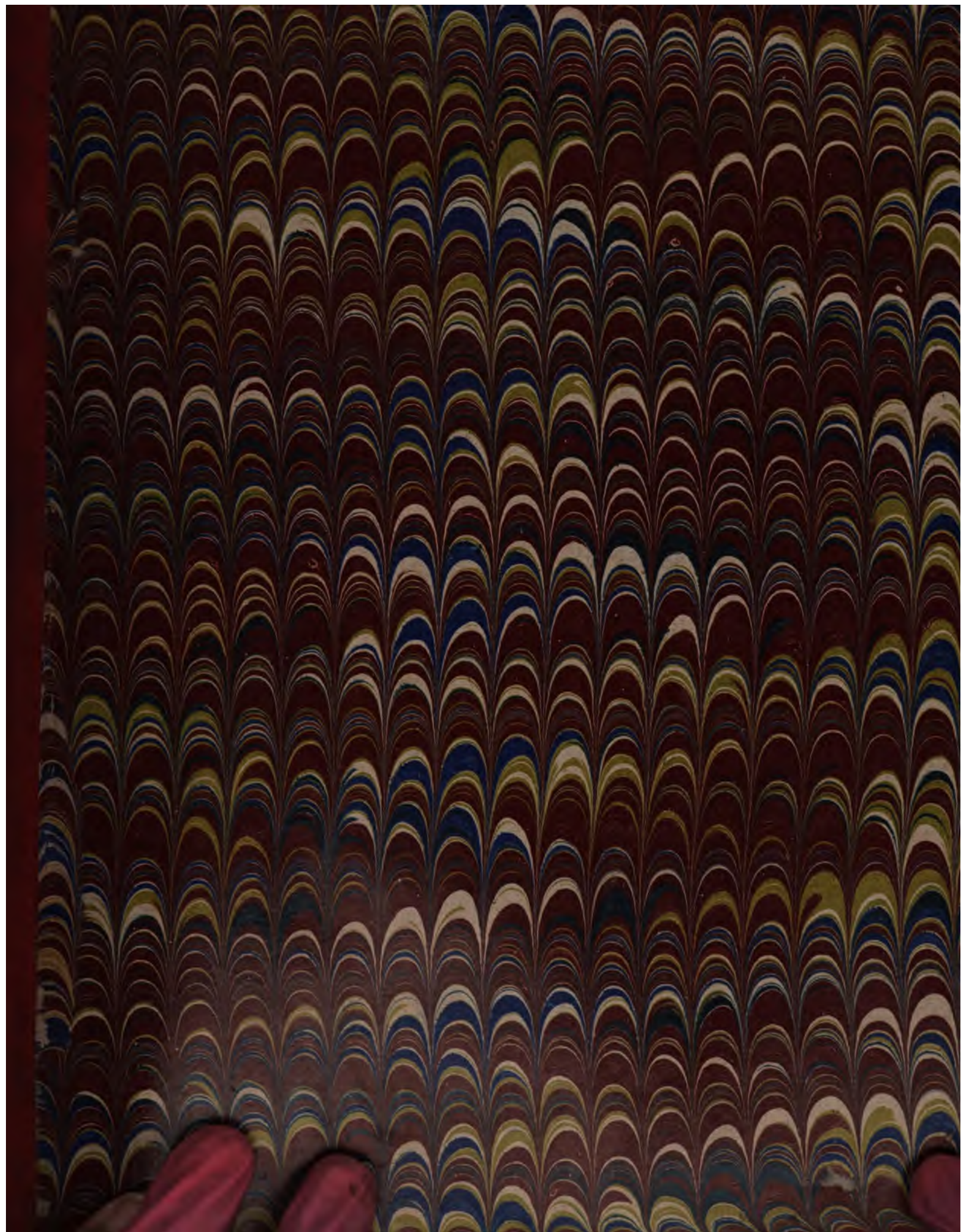




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and the fact that he is a member  
of the club, has a special interest in  
the club.





My dear Mr. [illegible]

Enclosed find [illegible]

Yours truly  
[illegible]





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**HISTORY**  
OF THE  
**GWYDIR FAMILY,**

BY  
**SIR JOHN WYNN,**

(THE FIRST BARONET OF THAT NAME), WHO WAS BORN IN 1553.

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NOW RE-EDITED,  
WITH ADDITIONAL NOTES,  
BY A NATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY:

TO WHICH IS ADDED,  
AN ORIGINAL WORK,

CONTAINING

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CELEBRATED AND DISTINGUISHED  
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AND LIBERAL PATRONAGE OF HIS LONG NEGLECTED COUNTRYMEN,

HAS PROVED HIMSELF  
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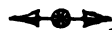
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## ERRATA.



### INTRODUCTION.

Page 10, last line but one in the Note, for *been*, read *being*.  
 — 16, first line, for *seems*, read *seem*.

### HISTORY.

— 17, first line in the 2d Note, for *derice*, read *derives*.  
 — 17, sixth ditto ditto, for *bears*, read *bear*.  
 — 41, line fifteen, for *ap* Kychwillan, read *of* Kychwillan.  
 — 43, last Note, for *ba'lers*, read *boilers*.  
 — 45, 1st Note, for *Cuienne*, read *Guienne*;—and in ditto,  
     for *Cuyen*, read *Guyen*.  
 — 46, 1st Note, fourth line, for *as*, read *ac*.  
 — 46, ditto, seventh line, for *dns*, read *dni*.  
 — 76, Note, for *paris*, read *parish*.

### MEMOIRS.

— 103, sixth line, for *Statutes*, read *Statues*.  
 — 103, second line in the Note, for *rewarded*, read *recorded*.  
 — 104, fourth line, for *was*, read *were*.  
 — 104, eleventh line in the Note, for *was*, read *were*.  
 — 104, second line in the 2d Note, for *prim. 6*, read *prim. Edw. 6*.  
 — 104, ninth line in ditto, for *and*, read *to*.  
 Table I. of the Pedigrees, first line in the Note, for *occupies*, read *occupy*.









THE  
HISTORY  
OF THE  
GWEDIR FAMILY,  
\*  
BY SIR JOHN WYNNE,

*The first Baronet of that name, who was born in 1553.*



INTRODUCTION\*.

It may not be improper to give the reader some account of what he is, or is not, to expect from the present publication, as well as to throw together what few particulars can be now collected with regard to its author.

The MS hath, for above a century, being so prized in North Wales, that many in those parts have thought it worth while to make fair and complete transcripts of it. One of these Carte had consulted, and he refers to it as his authority for the Welsh Bards having been massacred by Edward the First†. This circumstance alone may stamp a most intrinsic value on the MS, as it hath given rise to an ode which will be admired by our latest posterity.

\* This history of the Gwedir Family was published in octavo, 1773; but the impression having been sold, it hath for some years been in considerable request, and is therefore here re-printed, with some additional notes. The additional notes of the present Edition are distinguished by the initials P. E. for Present Editor.

† See Carte, vol. II. p. 196, where it is entitled, *Sir John Wynne's History of the Gwedir family.*

\* Sir John Wynn bore the great Standard of Henry Prince of Wales, at the funeral of that Prince, on Decr. 7<sup>th</sup> 1612 - See Nicholls's Progresses of King James 1<sup>st</sup> -

The whole passage relative to this tradition is also cited by the Rev. Mr. Evans, in his *Specimens of Welsh Poetry*, and it appears that he had made the extract from a copy in the collection of Sir Roger Mostyn, Bart.

It is believed likewise, that there is another transcript\* in the possession of Mr. Panton, of Plasgwyn in Anglesey, who, together with Mr. Holland, of Conway, and the Rev. Mr. Jones, (late Vicar of Llanrwst), have been so obliging as to communicate many particulars with regard to the Gwedir family.

The author was indeed a general collector of what related not only to his own ancestors, but the antiquities of the Principality†, as Rowland cites an Extent‡ or Survey of North Wales, illustrated by useful remarks of Sir John Wynne.

There was some difficulty in settling the time of the author's birth and death, till Mr. Granger's *Biographical Dictionary* was consulted, who gives the following inscription, under a copy made by Vertue, from an engraving of the author by Vaughan.

“Johannes Wynn de Gwedir in Com. Carnarvon Eques & Baronettus §; obiit 1<sup>mo</sup> die Martii, 1626, æt. 73.”

\* The present publication is also from a copy that belonged to Capt. Joseph Williams of Glanravon, which he kindly communicated.

† See *Mon. Antiq.* p. 123.

‡ This extent or survey of North Wales is now in the Harleian Collection. It is a very fine MS in folio, and appears to have been made in the 26th year of Edward the third. It relates only to the counties of Anglesey, Carnarvon, and Merioneth.—A MS amongst Dr. Foulkes's papers, says, that this extent was begun in Edward the first's time, and continued by Edward the second, and finished the 26th of Edward the third. It is called “the record of Caernarvon” in the Harleian Collection; it relates only to the counties of Môn, Caernarvon, and Meirionydd. No. 4776.—P. E.

§ He was created Baronet in 1611. (See Gwillim's *Heraldry*, 6th ed.)

+ This survey (of North Wales as it is generally called) at least that copy of it in the British Museum) is but a transcript made in the reign of Elizabeth. The survey of the county of Merioneth, is of a much later date, tho' transcribed into the same vol., than that of the other two Counties

The survey of Merioneth is of the 7<sup>th</sup> Hen: V. See a note in the Williams,  
of Cothwillan, pedigree at Poniarth.





The words "nec timent nec timent" are inscribed on Sir John Wynn's picture at Mostyn.

The accuracy of these dates seemed at first to be very suspicious, as there is an account of a voyage to Spain by Sir *Richard Wynne of Gwedir, Baronet*, in 1623, which is prefixed to that volume of Hearne's Tracts, that begins with the Life of Richard the second. Application was however made to the late Mr. West, Pr. R. S. for leave to examine the original print, in his very valuable and curious collection. Mr. Granger's dates are thereby most exactly confirmed, and it may not be improper here to add, the inscription under the engraving :

"Vera effigies Domini Clarissimi Johannis Wynn de Gwedir in  
"Com. Carnarvon, Equitis & Baronetti.

"Obiit primo die Martii 1626, ætat. 73.


"Honoris ipsius causâ Rob. Vaughan sculpsit, prolisque D. D."

This was possibly Robert Vaughan of Hengwrt the great antiquary, who was a particular friend of Sir John Wynn, as also of his son Sir Richard, to whom he dedicated his book, entitled, "British Antiquities revived." I find also, by the letter subjoined, that Mr. Robert Vaughan, of Hengwrt, engraved himself, and that the expression of *sculpsit* therefore is strictly accurate.

"SIR,

"I wold intreate you to send me certayne directions, whether  
"itt shold be three Eglets in a Scutcheon, or one Eagle on a  
"Wreath; for to doe it in a Scutcheon with one Eagle is contrary to the rules of heraldry, and not your cote: likewise  
"whether itt shold not have a Labell for the distinction of an

*I think  
not.*

“ elder brother, during the life-time of his father, in this man-  
 “ ner.  If you please to send by the weekly post I will  
 “ answer you by the next convenient messenger.  
 “ When these troubles began, I had drawne the  
 “ pedigree of Sir Richard, from Owen Gwynedd, lineally to him-  
 “ selfe; now in my absence from London, both the copper plate  
 “ which I had began to 'grave, and the draught was embezzeled  
 “ from me; now I am resolved, (God willing) this vacation time  
 “ to sett it a foote agayne. I onely want the names of your an-  
 “ cestors from Owen Gwynedd to your selfe, of which you are  
 “ the 15th, (leaving out young Sir John, and Sir Richard,) be-  
 “ cause they died issueless. For the faces I am at my own fancy,  
 “ till I come to Sir John Wyn your father; for the rest that are  
 “ beyond him, I thinke you have no true pictures of them extant.  
 “ This (if I have your fayre leave) I wold dedicate to posterity, in  
 “ some small measure, to expresse my duty I owe to your honor'd  
 “ family; and during life, remayne,

“ Your evervowed servant,

“ ROBERT VAUGHAN.

London, June 22,  
1650.

“ To the Hon. Sir Owen Wynne, Knt.

“ Baronet at Gwedur,

“ These, with his service, present.”

[Communicated by Paul Panton, Esq.]

It seems improbable that the engraver could be inaccurate in the dates of Sir John Wynne's birth and death, when the print is dedicated to his family.





The title therefore given by Hearne, to a voyage of \* Sir Richard Wynne, of Gwedir, Baronet, in 1623, when he only became so in 1627, must have arisen from his being a Baronet, when he, perhaps, made a more fair and complete copy of his Travels.

If this could want any confirmation, it may receive it from two commissions in Rymer†; in the first of which, dated in 1626, mention is made of Sir *John Wynne*, Baronet; and in the second, dated in 1627‡, of Sir *Richard Wynne*, Baronet.

Though Mr. Granger therefore seems to be accurate, with regard to the birth and death of the first Baronet, yet, from a similarity of names, he hath made a mistake in ascribing the republication of “ Dr. Powell’s History of Wales, from Cadwalader to “ Llewelyn, by W. Wynne, A. M.” to this Baronet.

The author, who was born in 1553, seems to have lived chiefly in retirement, during which period no very interesting particulars can be expected §.

\* An inscription in Wimbleton church.—“ Hic jacet Ric : Wyn de Gwedir in Com : de Caernar : Mil : et Baron : thesaurarius nec non conciliarius Honoratissimus Principis et Henriette Mariæ reginæ qui lineâ parentali et illustri illa Familiâ et antiquissima Stirpe Britanica North Walliæ Principum Oriundus Denatus 19 die Julii 1649 Ætatis 61.—P. E.

† See Rymer’s Fœd. vol. VIII. part ii. p. 145 and 233. Hague ed.

‡ Sir John Wynn probably died on March 3, 1626-7.

§ It should seem, that he had travelled in his younger days, as Archbishop Williams, (then tutor to his sons at St. John’s College, Cambridge,) speaks of him as a man\*,

Multorum mores hominum qui vidit, & urbes\*.

Which circumstance is, perhaps, confirmed by his son, having visited Italy when young, as fathers generally wish that their sons should be educated in the same manner with themselves.

A letter in Mr. Panton’s possession from Mr. Williams, afterwards Archbishop of York, speaks of Sir J. Wynne’s sons as very promising scholars. By No. 2129 of Harleian MS, it appears, that there was a room within the hall at Gwydir, painted with the arms and descent of the family.—P. E.

\* MS. Letter penes Paul Panton, Esq.

The building a new house, is an event of some consequence in such a life ; he began Upper Gwedir\* in 1604, as appears by an inscription over the entrance.

It was considered as one of the best houses in the principality, because there is a tradition, that it was calculated to receive any of the Royal Family, who might have occasion to go to Ireland†.

\* The house, called lower Gweder, he mentions in this MS, to have been built by his great grandfather. As for Upper Gwedir, it was covered almost with inscriptions in different languages ; scarcely any of which remain, as the wainscot hath been lately used in repairing farm-houses, on other parts of the estate. The Pigeon-house appears by the date, to have been built in 1597, Gwedir Summer-house, in 1673.

There is an engraving of Lower Gwedir, in a map of Denbigh and Flintshire, which was published 40 or 50 years ago, by William Williams :

A Welsh inscription, which is still legible, over the entrance, is here subjoined.

Bryn Gwydir gwelir golau adeilad,  
uwch dolydd a chaerau,  
Bryn gwyd adail yn ail ne,  
Bron wen henHys brenhinlle.

Hugh bach ap Howel ap Shenkin a ganodd yr Englyn uchod, ddeng mlynedd cyn amcannu gwneuthur yr adeilad hon.

" A conspicuous edifice on Gwedir hill, towering over the adjacent land, a well-chosen situation, a second paradise, a fair bank, a palace of royalty.

" This *Englyn* was written by little Hugh Shenkin, *ten years before the building was designed* \*."

The late reverend Mr. Jones, vicar of Llanrwst, was so obliging as to copy the above inscription, and to accompany it with the translation here given.

He also observes, that this Welsh composition is a sort of gingle, for which he knows no English name, or any similar metre.

† A correspondent of his son, Sir Richard Wynne, speaks thus of Gwedir, in 1661.

" DEARE SIR,

" I know not how in part to acquit my selfe of the obligation you have layd on me, without giving  
" my acknowledgement to your excellent lady, whom I have taken the boldness to visit, and find  
" her in the happy condition I desired, being very well, and upon inquiry, continuing in the  
" hopeful way you left her, to increase your family. Really, upon my view and consideration of  
" the seate of Gwidder, I conclude it to be the best place in Wales, and inferiour to few in  
" England, I need not urge those things to hasten your returne ; but I should judge very weakly  
" of those that have such conveniencys, and will not enjoy them, if not detained by very great

• It should seem from this, that little Hugh Shenkin was a prophet, as well as a poet.







As in the year 1604, none of the blood Royal could probably think of such a journey, it may rather be supposed, that it was destined for the reception of the Lords Deputies of Ireland, as it is little out of the road to Holyhead, if at this time they did not go from Chester to Dublin.

Be this as it may, some reason for any mention being made of this house, arises from a possibility of its having been designed by Inigo Jones, in his first manner, before he had been in Italy, as this great architect was protected by Sir John Wynne.

The name of Jones, sufficiently proves him to have been of Welsh extraction; to which it may be added, that his cast of features, as represented in Hollar's engraving of his portrait, seems to shew that he must have been an inhabitant of the Principality.

All traditions have generally some foundation, and it is commonly believed, in the neighbourhood of Llanrwst, that Jones was born either at that town, or Dolwyddelan, which is equally situated near considerable estates of the Gwedir family. The tradition is also so circumstantial, as to suppose, that he was christened by the name of *Ynyr*\*, which, after his travels into

"considerations. In fine, I am in the buttry, just taking leave, and drinking your health,  
"bidding adieu to your house and the like, at this time to yourself.

"Your most humble servant,

"And obliged Cosen,

"THOMAS BULKELY."

*Gwydder, this 27th May, 1661.*

[Present this to the Hon Sir Richard Wynne, Bart.]

"John Win ap Meredith dwellith at Gweder at two bows shots above Conway town, on the ripe  
"of Conway River: it is a praty place," *Lel. Itin. vol. V. p. 40.* Leland here most evidently mistakes Conway for Llanrwst.

\* I think with much more probability, that it was Inco, which I find was a name not very un-

Italy, he exchanged for *Inigo*, as sounding better\*. It is part likewise of the same tradition, that he was patronised by the Wynne's of Gwedir, and that he built Plastêg, belonging to the Trevor family, on the road from Wrexham to Mold†.

As every particular which relates to this great architect, is interesting, it may not be improper also to observe, that Jones, who went a second time to Italy, in 1612, might possibly have travelled‡ under the protection of the author's eldest son, John, who died at Lucca, in that year. As for his being patronised by the Earl of Pembroke at this time, it seems to be very justly doubted by Mr. Walpole §.

common in those times, and there is a house not far from Llanrwst, which is called to this day "Pen-craig Inco." P. B. Williams.—P. E.

\* Thus Cooper, (master of the Viol da Gamba to Charles the First,) after he had been in Italy, changed his name to Coperario. Hawkins's History of Music, vol. IV. He also altered his Christian name, stiling himself Giovanni, instead of John, *ibid.* vol. IV. p. 55. Thus, likewise, Peter Philips, another musician, who had been much in Italy, stiled himself Pietro Philippi, *ibid.* v. III. p. 327. Jones was branded by Ben Jonson for his vanity, as one of the latter's epigrams is addressed to Inigo Marquis *would be*. Jones, indeed, contrived the scenes for Jonson's masques, which being, perhaps, more admired than the poetry, excited Jonson's envy. It is remarkable also, that one of these scenes represents *Crai Eryri*, or the rocks of Snowdon<sup>a</sup>, under which Jones was born, if a native of Llanrwst.

Davydd Rhys, changed his surname into Rizzio; his father, Dr. John Davydd Rhys, studied Physic in the University of Sienna, in 1555.—P. E.

† There is an engraving of the front of this house, on the side of a large map of Denbighshire and Flintshire, which was published about forty or fifty years ago.

‡ The university of Oxford, A. D. 1605, upon King James visiting it, hired one Mr. Jones, a great traveller, who undertook to further them much, and furnish them with rare devices, but performed very little, to that which was expected, though paid £50. for his service. Addition to the second volume of *Lel. Collect.* p. 646.

§ Anecdotes of Painting in England (article JONES); where notice is likewise taken, that this great architect was possibly protected by the Earl of Arundel.

Inigo Jones, was employed by Q. Eliz. in repairing one of the piers of London Bridge, which gained him repute, after been recommended to that Queen, by Sir John Wynne. This anecdote,

<sup>a</sup> By Snowden is here meant, what was anciently included in the forest of that name.





It is not improbable likewise, that Jones might have obtained the considerable station he afterwards rose to from the patronage of this family, which, considered him as a promising genius, that did particular honour to Gwedir, and its neighbourhood. But to return to what more immediately concerns the author of these Memoirs, and his family.

In 1610, Sir John Wynne erected at Llanrwst some alms-houses, (to which he gave the name of Jesus Hospital) for the reception of twelve poor men, and drew up regulations for the management of his benefaction. He also endowed this charity very liberally, with the rectorial tithes of Eglwys Fach, which are now valued at £200. per annum.

In 1615, he had incurred the displeasure of the Council of the Marches, as the then Chancellor, (Lord Ellesmere) is informed, that Sir John Wynne, Knight and Baronet, is improper to be continued a member thereof, and also, that his name should not remain in the commission of the peace for Carnarvonshire\*.

The year before his death, he was desirous of promoting a considerable embankment on the confines of Carnarvon, and Merionethshire†; as appears by the following letter:

“ Right worthee Sir, my good Cousyn, and one of the  
“ greate Honours of Veneration,

“ I Understand of a greate work that you have performed in

the late Rev. John Lloyd, Rector of Caerwys, received from Mr. Stoddart, of Llandderfel, who had it from the late Mr. Wynn, of Bodscallon, who was possessed of several anecdotes relative to Inigo Jones.—P. E.

\* MS. Letter, penes Mr. Panton.

† Engineers have lately made their reports in favour of this undertaking; but hitherto no workmen have been employed.



“ the Isle of Wight, in gaininge two thousand acres from the  
 “ sea : I may saie to you as the Jewes said to Christ ; we have  
 “ heard of thy great workes done abroad, doe somewhat in thine  
 “ owne Countrey.

“ There are two wayis in Merionythshire, whereon some parte  
 “ of my living\* lieth, called Traethmawr, and Traethbychan, of a  
 “ greate extent of ground, and entringe into the sea by one Issue,  
 “ which ys not a mile broade at full sea, and verie shallow : the  
 “ fresh currents that run into the sea, are both vehement and  
 “ greate, and carrie with them much sand, beside the southerly  
 “ winde, which bloweth to the haven’s mouth, carrieth with it  
 “ so much sand, that it hath overwhelmed a greate quantitie of  
 “ the ground adjacent. There are also in the boardering coun-  
 “ treys abundance of wood, brush, and other materials fit to  
 “ make mounts, to be had at a verie cheape rate, and easilie  
 “ brought to the place, which I hear they do in Lincolnshire, to  
 “ repell the sea. My skill ys little, and my experience none at  
 “ all in such matters ; yet I ever had a desire to further my  
 “ country in such actions as might be for their profit, and leave  
 “ a remembrance of my endeavours ; but hindered with other  
 “ matters, I have onelie wished well, and done nothinge.

“ Now, seinge yt pleased God, to bringe you into this countrey,  
 “ I am to desire you, to take a view of the place, not beinge  
 “ above a daie’s journey from you ; and yf you doe see things fit

\* Anciently used for an *estate*, thus, “ I have a little *living* in this town.”

The London Prodigal, ascribed to Shakespeare.





“ to be undertaken, I am content to adventure a brace of hundred pounds to joyne with you in the worke.

“ I have leade oare on my ground in greate store \*, and other minerals, neere my house, yf it please you to come hither, being not above two daies journey from you, you shall be most kindly welcome ; yt may be you shall find here that will tend to your commoditie and myne ; yf I did knowe the day certaine, when you would come to view Traithmawr, my sonne, Owen Wynn, shall attend you there, and conduct you thence along to my house. Commending me verie kindly unto you, doe rest,

“ Your loving Cousyn, and Friend,

“ JOHN WYNNE.”

*Gwydder, Sept. 1, 1625.*

To the Hon. Sir Hugh Myddleton,

Knight and Baronet.

[A coppie of a letter to Sir Hugh Myddleton, Knight and Baronet, at the Silver Mines†, in Cardiganshire.]

In 1626, at the age of seventy-three, he died much lamented, both by his family and neighbourhood, which may be inferred from the engraving by Vaughan, already mentioned, as in those times, few had such respect shewn to their memories, who were not very singularly esteemed.

How many of Sir John Wynne's children were living at his

\* These mines have been lately worked, and I am told with some success.

† There is so much silver in some of the lead mines, not far from Aberystwith, that they have been stiled the Welsh Potosi ; I have been informed also, that money hath been coined from them.

death cannot now be accurately known; he had, however, by Sidney, daughter of Sir William Gerard, chancellor of Ireland, eleven sons, and two daughters\*.

Sir Richard Wynne, who became the eldest son, upon the death of his brother John, was one of the Grooms of the Bedchamber to Charles the First, when Prince of Wales, and was appointed afterwards Treasurer to Queen Henrietta.

In 1633, Sir Richard built the chapel at Llanrwst, which is supposed by tradition to have been planned by Jones, and in 1636, the bridge over the Conway, at the end of the town, was completed. This bridge is also considered as a work of Jones's, and is so elegant a structure, that it sufficiently speaks itself to be the plan of a masterly architect†.

\* This appears by the inscription over the author's tomb, at Llanrwst. A letter from Archbishop Williams, states, that some of his elder sons were promising scholars.

In the Temple Church, is a monument to Henry Wynn, one of the eleven sons of Sir John, Wynn, of Gwedir, Bart. This Henry Wynn, married Catherine, the daughter and heiress of Elizei Lloyd, Esq. of Rugoch, in Merioneth. He was Judge of the Marshalsea, Prothonotary of the N. W. Circuit, and Secretary to the Court of the Marches. He died in 1671. See also No. 2129 p. 148, & seq. of the Harleian MSS. for many inscriptions on the tomb-stones of the author's ancestors in Llanrwst church, which seem to have been copied about a century ago, and many of which are now scarcely legible.

† Mr. Panton hath informed me, from the records of the Quarter Sessions for Denbighshire, that this bridge was directed to be re-built in the 9th of Car. I. by a letter from the Privy Council<sup>b</sup>, Jones being then surveyor of the works, and having therefore probably, procured this order in favour of the place of his nativity. The estimate amounted to £1000. which was to be levied on the two counties of Denbigh and Carnarvon.

\* Henry Wynn was father to Sir J. Wynn, of Wynstay, Bart. who having no children, left his estates to Sir William Williams, Bart. of Llanvorda the husband of Jane, granddaughter and heiress to William Wynn, of Garthgynnan, who was the fourth son of Sir J. Wynn, of Gwydyr, upon condition of his taking the name and arms of Wynn. The present Sir W. W. Wynn, is the lineal descendant, and representative of Sir William Williams.—P. E.

<sup>b</sup> A modern lawyer would probably dispute the legality of such a requisition.





Having stated the few circumstances, which could be collected with regard to the author, it may not be improper to mention, that no liberties have been taken in improving his orthography, or style, except now and then, by breaking a very long and complicated period into two, so as to make it more perspicuous and intelligible.

It is not pretended, that the present publication is entitled to any merit of this sort, as it appears to have been compiled merely for the author's information, and that of his descendants.

His intention in these memoirs of his family, was to deduce his pedigree from Owen Gwynedd\*, Prince of N. Wales in 1438. So long therefore, as his ancestors continued to be some of the *reguli* of that country, it may be considered as a history, or rather brief chronicle of the Principality. Imperfect, however as it is, yet it may be entitled to some degree of value, in the light of a supplement to Dr. Powell's *Chronicle of Wales*. 1137

It appears by this MS. that the author was furnished with some materials, which neither Powell, nor Wynne, the only other historian of Wales, had ever seen.

In different parts of these memoirs he cites as his authorities, The copy of a Fragment of a Welsh Chronicle, in the possession of his cousin, Sir Thomas Williams of Trefriw; Welsh Pedigrees; The records kept in Carnarvon Castle; Records copied for him at the Tower, by J. Broughton, Esq. then Justice of N. Wales; as also the tradition of the country.

\* Owen Gwynedd, succeeded his father Griff. ab Cynan, in the Principality of North Wales, in the year 1137, and reigned 32 years.—P. E.



What seems to be most interesting in the work, are some anecdotes and circumstances which relate to the more immediate ancestors of the author, as they are strongly characteristic of the manners and way of living in the Principality, during that period.

As the places mentioned are often nothing more than farms, and in a part of Wales not much known probably to English Readers, it hath been thought proper to subjoin in a note some account of their situations.

If this had been done, however, in every instance, it would have greatly increased the size of the publication; it therefore may not be improper to premise, that the scene chiefly lies in Eifionydd\*, Dolwyddelan†, and Gwedir, all of which are in Carnarvonshire.

I conceive it to be much to the credit of these Family Memoirs, that the very learned and ingenious Dr. Percy, (Dean of Carlisle) hath perused them with such attention, as to have drawn out four genealogical tables, as also to have added some notes, for the illustration of certain parts, and more particularly with regard to the pedigrees. I am proud to insert these, and the reader will find them under the mark of P. I have likewise added some observations, for which I am indebted to the Rev. Mr. Evan Evans, translator of some specimens of ancient Welsh Poetry, published for Dodsley, in quarto: these are marked E.

\* Eifionydd, is a tract of country lying between the promontory of Llyn, and the mountainous region of Snowdon. It was formerly a comot of the cantrev, or hundred of Dunodig; the other comot was Ardudwy, now a part of Meirionyddshire, between Harddlech and Barmouth. Walfen Davies.—P. E.

† Dolwyddelan, a parish near Capel Curig.—P. E.



Wales, and at the request of Morice Wynne, Esq. (who had the same written in a most ancient booke and was lineally descended from him) was translated into Latine by Nicholas Robinson, Bishop of Bangor\*.

Owen Gwynedd was Prince after his father.

He married to his first wife Gwladys, daughter to Lowarce ap Trahayarn, Lord of Divet, by whom he had only Yerwerth†

\* The late Rev. Mr. Lloyd of Cowden, in Sussex, informed me that he saw this MS. of Bishop Robinson, at the Rev. Mr. Hugh Hughes's, late Vicar of Bangor, whose father and eldest brother were stewards after him at Gwedir\*.

† This account differs very materially from that given by Dr. Powel in his History of Cambria, p. 226. It should seem however that the author made use of some materials in compiling this short chronicle of the Princes of Wales, which Dr. Powel had no opportunity of consulting; and he hath already mentioned a life of Griffith ap Conan, written by a most ancient Friar or Monk of Wales.

Dr. Powel's History was published in 1584, and as the author refers to it in this page, it proves that this part of the MS was written after that year<sup>b</sup>.

\* The MS said to have been at Wig Llandegai, is as follows: Sciant jam presentes quam futuri qd. ego Griff. filius Conan concessi dedi et confirmavi deo et Ecclesie Sti Johannis Evang. de Hagemon & Canonicis ibidem deo servientibus ad Ecclesiam eorum de Nevyn tres acres in Nevyn et Abraham Filius Aldredi Sutoris et duos C. W. et fo. in perpetuam Eleemosynam libera & quiete ad Ecclesiam S. Mariae de Nevyn & predictis Canon. de Hagemon jure perpetuo pertinent.

omnibus Stae dei Eccles. filiis a jam presentibus quam futuris Dafid rex filius Owini Salutem Notum sit vobis me concessisse Abbati & Canonicis de Hagemon illam terram quam T. D. habuit in villa de Nevyn ab omnibus Herrenis consuetudinibus immunem concedoque similiter predict Canonicis decimationem molendini mei de Nevyn ad perpetuam Eleemosynam T. Jo. de Burcheto Rodo de lega. Einion sais &c. Dafydd fil. Oweni Principis North Wallie Universis uti fidelibus et Francis & Anglis Salutem in Domino Sempiternam Sciatis me assensu Emmae uxoris meae et Oweni haeredis mei &c. his T. Remo Epo. Domina Ema soror Hen: Regis ux. Davidis fil. Oweni Princip. Northwall. &c. &c. Sciatis me assensu Davidis mariti mei et Oweni haeredis mei &c.

T. Einion Sais. Rodo delega.—P. E.

<sup>b</sup> Evan Evans informed Mr. Barrington, of a Latin History of Wales, by one Davydd Maelor, which Dr. Powell wrote some notes upon; he likewise told him, that the Chronicle of Thomas Williams is in the Hengwrt Library. J. Ll.—P. E.



# TABLE I.

Pr. Griffith ap Conan, prince of Wales = Angharad, da. of Owen ap Edwyn, lord of Englefeld.  
reigned 50 years, died 1137.

Gwladys, da. to Lly = Pr. Owen Gwynedd = Christian, da. of Gronow, ap Owen ap Edwyn, lord of Englefeld.  
reigned 33 years, died in 1169.

Cadwalader, lord = Alice, da. of Richard of Cuddeghu, earl of Clare.

Cadwalon, slain = Gwenllan, wife of Gruff, before his death. ap Rhys ap Tudor mawr, prince of South Wales.

Yerworth, or Edward = Mared, da. of Madog ap Meredith, prince of Powys.  
with the broken nose did not reign.  
at Rhinod Me = Llyfard.

Pr. David, prince of Wales, married Emma, sister of King Hen. II.

Owen did not reign.  
O. S. P.

1243.  
Rodri, lord of Anglesey, mawr. 1st Agnes, da. of lord Rhys ap Griffith ap Rhys ap Tudor mawr.  
Rodri mawr. 2d Agnes, da. of Gothevic, king of Man.

Angharad, wife of Gruff.  
Gruff. 1253.

1. Conan had part of Merthyr. He had several sons;  
2. Llewellyn, mawr.  
3. Meredith.  
4. Edward.  
5. Rhys.  
6. Howell.  
7. Cadell.  
8. Madoc.  
9. Einion.  
10. Cywric.  
11. Philip.  
12. Rhydd.  
13. Rhydd.

Natural sons by various women.

Pr. Llewellyn the Great, prince of North Wales in 1194, at length prince of all Wales, died in 1240. He mawr. Joan, da. of king John, by Agatha, daughter of Robert Ferrers, earl of Derby.

Caridog ap Tho = Eva, da. of Gwyn [or Cynon] mawr. ap Gruffith ap Bell.

Gruff, ob. 1253. Meredith, & other issue.  
Howell.

Gwladys, 2d w. Prince David = of Reginald de Braose, married in 1240. 2dly Ralph lord Mortimer, of Wigmore.

Gruffith ap Lly = Sin, or Seneca, wellyn.

Einion ap Caridog = 1st son. The sole of his palace is to be seen at this day in Penychen.

Willm Caridog, alias Willm Craidog, 3d son, mawr. an inheritor in Penbrokeshire.

Prince Llewellyn ap Gruff = David, was ex-cuted at Salop in 1284. last prince of Wales, slain at Beeli, in 1293.

A daughter. Maternal ancestor to Owen Glyndwr.

Davidd Fole ab Dd = A daughter.

Rodri ab Gruff =.

Thomas ab Rodri =.

Ellin the Frenchwoman, [so called because she was in France with her brother] married and had children. Hengert MS. - P. E.

Owen llaw goch, or Owen with the 'Bloody hand,' who distinguished himself in the wars of France, temp. E. 3, & is celebrated by Sir John Frodo, in his Chronicle, by the name of Syr Iwan of E. Murdered by John Lamb, in 1581. - P. E.

\* This interesting anecdote identifying Syr Iwan of Wales, (whose christenname implies so large a portion of Frodo's Chronicle) with the son of Thomas ab Rodri, was discovered in one of the Hengert MSS. belonging to Gwydd Hwyl Vaughan, Esq. of Bala, whose kind assistance in procuring the latter a portion of this valuable volume is most gratefully acknowledged.

\* It has been generally maintained that Gwydd Hwyl Vaughan is the author of this.

Slings 1281/4

See his descendants in the next Table II. facing Page 35.









*Dawndwn* or *Edward with the broken nose*\*, and by his second wife called Christian, daughter of Gronow ap Owen ap Edwyn Lord of Englefield, being his cosen, he had David who after him was Prince; he had also Rodri Lord of Anglesey, and Cadwallon who was Abbot of Bardsey, and Angharad wife of Griffith Maelor †. He had besides these by diverse women Conan, Llewellyn Meredith, Edwal, Rân, Howel, Cadelh, Madoc, Eneon, Cynwric, Philip, and Riryd Lord of Clochran in Ireland. (v. *Powel's Chron.*) This Prince Owen with his brother Cadwalader (as the Welsh Chronicle maketh mention) in his father's time made many victorious voyages into South Wales against the Normans that incroached mightilie on that country, and in a pitched field slew 3,000 men, and put the rest to flight. Being Prince after his father's death, he overthrew the Earle of Chester and a number of March Lords, and (as Giraldus Cambrensis hath it in his History, intituled *Itinerarium Cambriæ*) repulsed K. Henry II. who made three voyages royall against Wales, with all the Power of England, Normandy, and Aquitaine, together with the succours of Flanders and Britayne. In one of the voyages at Counsyllt wood the whole army of the King was put to flight, as the French Chronicle ‡ sayth, the King's person endangered

\* "*Yerwerth Drwyndwn near to Brute.*" Out of a chartre of the Genealogie of the Dukes of Yorke inserted in Leland's Collect. vol. II. p. 616. 2d edit.

† Gryffith Maelor Lord of Bromfield, who died in 1191. [See Anderson's Royal Genealogies.] He was brother of Marged, mentioned hereafter. P.

‡ As there are several French Chronicles which occasionally treat of what happened in England, it is difficult to ascertain what History the author alludes to. He also does not explain in any instance what Welsh Chronicle he so often refers to, whether that of Caradoc of Lancarvon, that before mentioned to have been written by a Friar of Conway, or perhaps some other compilation

and the great standard of England overthrowne and forsaken\*, which was the cause that Robert Mountfort, a noble baron, impeached Henry of Essex the standard bearer, (who held that office by inheritance), for beginning the flight, of treason, which being tried by combate, the standard-bearer was overthrowne, his office, lands, and goods, confiscate, and himselfe shaven a monke in the Abbey of Reading. After that this Prince had reigned most victoriously thirty-two years, he died. It is written of him, that he was soe fortunate, as that he never attempted that enterprise which he atchieved not.

Cadwalader, brother to Prince Owen †, was married to Alice, daughter to Richard earl of Clare, and was lord of Cerdigiawn or Cardiganshire.

Though this record is attested by (calleth this, Bala MS) Cadwalader king of Wales ‡, because he had kingly authority in this countrey, yet he was no more than a subject to his brother, by whom he was banished, and lost his lands, till by composition the same were restored. The Welsh Chronicle calleth him Prince of Wales : he

of the same sort. The author also cites the copy of a Welsh chronicle in the possession of his relation Sir Thomas Williams of Trefriw. See afterwards.

\* See Gulielmus Neunbrigensis's account of the action, l. 2. c. 5. which agrees with the author's in most particulars.

† Cadwalader *frater Owini magni salutem in Domino* ; Notum sit universitati vestræ quod ego Cadwalader pro salute animæ meæ & omnium antecessorum & heredum meorum dedi & concessi Deo & Eccle S. Joannis Evan de Hageman & Canonicis ibidem Deo servientibus in puram & petnam Eleemosynam Eccleiam de Nevin. T. Alic' de Clara uxore mea, Ranulpho comite Cestrie, &c. Precipio quod Abbas Sulop & Conventus habeant totam tenuram suam inter Ryblam & Mer-sam • T. R. comite de Clara & Cadwaladro ap Gr. ap Cynan rege Walliarum, & Roberto Basset & Gaufrid apud Cestriam.

‡ See note †

• Two rivers in Lancashire.

*to it have been a sign of rebellion*





dwelled most at the castle of Aberystwythe. He was murdered by the English souldiers which the King sent to conduct him to his countrey.

After the death of Owen, Yerwerth (or Edward), his sonne, being thought unfitt to governe by reason of the deformity of his face, David his brother became Prince in his father's roome.

I find that Yerwerth Drwndwn, or Edward *with the broken nose*, being put from the government of the principality, had assigned him for his part of his father's inheritance, the hundreds of Nanconwy and Ardydwy\*. He dwelled at the castle of Dolwyddelan†, where it is thought credible his son Llewelyn the Great, or Prince Llewelyn, was borne, whose mother was Marged the daughter of Madog ap Meredydd prince of Powys.

Conan ap Owen Gwynedd his son had for his part the country of Merioneth‡.

David married Emma sister to King Henry the II. and had by her a sonne called Owen; upon confidence of that match he banished his base brethren, and imprisoned his brother Roderike, because he desired the portion of inheritance. But Rodericke breaking his brother's prison, entered the isle of Anglisey, and was received of the people as sovraigne lord thereof, and within a while recovered all that parte of Wales which lyeth above the river of Conway. At such time as Giraldus Cambrensis in the

\* Nantconway is a hundred of Carnarvonshire, through which the river Conway runs; Ardydwy is a hundred in the N. W. part of Merionethshire.

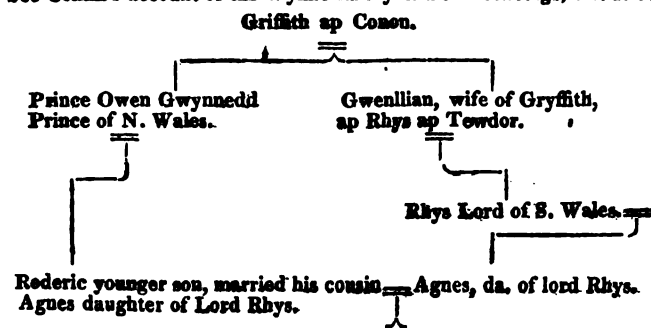
† This castle is situated in the South Eastern parts of Carnarvonshire, and in perhaps the least frequented part of the mountains. The remains at present are very insignificant.

‡ It is therefore always stiled by Giraldus Cambrensis, *Terra filiorum Conani*.

company of Baldwyn Archbishop of Canterbury travailed through Wales, preaching the crosse against the infidells, David had noe other part of the principality of Wales save Ruddlan castle and the territorie adjacent, which he held with a garrison of English, where the Archbishop lodged one night to visit the King's sister, as the same Giraldus doth testifie in his booke intituled, *His Journey through Wales*.

Giraldus maketh mention, that Roderic was Prince at such time as the Archbishop preached the Crosse in Anglisy, and that he had in his court Llewelyn the son of Yerwerth, or Edward, his nephew, who, though he was overborne by his uncle David (that married the K of England's sister, and had by her issue male), as alsoe by his uncle Roderic, (who, to strengthen himselfe with the power of South Wales, had married his own cosen\*, daughter of the Lord Rys ap Gruffith ap Rys ap Tewdwr mawr, and by her had issue Gruffith and Thomas), yet God soe advanced the right of the young prince Llewelyn, that in time he put down both his uncles from the princely scepter and their posterity, yet it may be imagined, (considering what places they held in their

\* Agnes. See Collins's account of the Wynne family in his Baronetage, vol. I. 8vo. 1720. P.









countrys and what friends they had abroad), not without an honourable composition and provision for themselves and their posterities first had.

It appeareth by the records in K. John's time remayning in the Tower, that the King gave to Owen the son of David, being his cosen german, and to Gruffith the sonne of Rodri \* three cantreds, viz. Rhos, Rheviniog, and Duffryn Clwydd, excepting the castle of Gannocke † and the territorie of Criddyn, wherein the said castle did stand, and alsoe gave them three other cantreds if they could winne them: the record followeth in hæc verba ‡.

By this record, (as also by the Welsh historie, which mentioneth that David ap Owen often assayed by the power of the King of England to recover the Principality against Prince Llewelyn

\* Rodri is a contraction for Roderic. Thus Odri is for Oderic. See Hist. Lit. de la France, t. VIII. p. 108.

† The castle of Gannocke is supposed to have been situated below Conway, where the river empties itself into the sea. It is now called Dyganwy.

‡ J O' Dei gra, &c. Sciatis Nos concessisse & hac charta nra confirmasse Audeno filio Davidis & Gruff' filio Roderici tria cantreda; sc. Rhos, salvo Nobis castro de Gannocke cum Creythyn ubi castrum illud sedet, Rhevinioc & Duffryn Clwyd cum ptinentiis suis integre tenenda ipsis Audeno & Gruffino & heredibus suis de Nobis & heredibus uris per servicia subscripta; s. singulis annis XII dextrarios de pretio; s. de unoquoq; cantred IIII dextrarios; & preterea de illis tribus cantredis unam *natam* \* canum p annum, & decem lepores & omnes accipitres & falcones gentiles & spervarios dict' trium Cantredorum, reddendo inde Nobis & heredibus nris singulis annis apud Salop ad Festum S. Petri ad vincula. P'terea ipsi ambo ibunt in servitium nrum cu gentibus de dict' cantredis & alias remanebunt si volumus. P'dicti vero Audoenus & Gruffinus obsides Nobis 'dabunt de fidei servitio suo. S. Audoenus filius David dabit filiu' suu' de uxore sua desponsat' &c. & si p' posse illorum & p' licentiam n'ram possint conquirere Arfon ar & clawdd<sup>b</sup> et Lley'n, idon' servie' Nobis facient de illis tribus pdict, cantredis. His T. Dom', Winton Epo W. Comite Sarum fratre nostro, G. filio Petri Com' Warren, S. Com' Winton, Wm. Com' Ferrar, Willimo Briover, Petro fil' Herberti, Tho. de Ardiner, Pho de Arch Justic' Cestr'. Dat apud Suwerit' XXXI Octob' anno regni nri XIII<sup>to</sup>.

\* This is the word used in the MS; it should however, probably, be *mentem canum*, from the French word *meute*.

<sup>b</sup> Perhaps Arlechwedd.—P. E.

his nephew) it may appeare that the cosens, Owen the sonne of David, and Gruffith the son of Rodri, joyned with the K. of England against their prince Llewelyn ; but all in vaine, for Giraldus maketh mention, they got noe other portion but what they had by composition. In what place it was in Wales the sons of Rodri had possessions graunted them, or whether it was in diverse places (as is most likely it should be, to weaken men of their alliance, friends, and authority among the commons), it doth not appeare by certayne record.

Whether David ap Owen had any more children by the King's sister but Owen, and whether any, or who be descended, either by male or female, of them, I cannot yet find any certainty thereof. In a fragment of a Welsh cronicle, copied by Sir Thomas Williams, I find, that in the end Llewelyn killed his uncle David, and all his posterity, at Conway. Soe that I think there is none descended from the said David and the Lady Emma his wife either male or female.

The posterity of Rodri had large possessions in Denbigh land, called Rhos Ravoniawg, neare about Denbigh castle, in the chieftest and best part of the same, as hereafter in this history shall appeare (whereby it may seeme K. John's graunt of that countrey was not wholly frustrate unto them, or perhaps they had that land given them by the last prince Llewelyn) and also were lords of diverse lordships in the county of Carnarvon, especialie in the hundred of Evioneth. The Evioneth men have it among them by tradition, that Llewelyn the Great gave the lands in Evioneth unto the posterity of Rodri. I find in a fragment of a Welsh cronicle,





copied by my kinsman Sir Thomas Williams, that Rodri had another son called Einion (as is afore specified) by the daughter of the Lord Rys, Prince of South Wales, beside Gruffith before mentioned and Thomas.

Rodri his second wife was daughter to Gothic, King of Man. In anno Dom. 1243 Rodri ap Owen, by the help of Gothic K. of Man, invaded Anglisey, but within one yeare was thence repulsed by the sons of Conan ap Owen Gwynedd, who held the isle to themselves. Quere, who are descended of this Conan? There is in the towneshipp of Pennant Evioneth a *gwely* called *gwely wyr-ion Cynan*\* held very freely; many suppose that part of this Conan's inheritance was there. I remember the words of Giraldus Cambrensis, that sayeth, I will advisedly omit the cruell and unnaturall warrs that were for ambition of government betwene Prince Owen's children and offespring in the time of the said Giraldus. Rodri lyeth buried in the Colledge of Kerkyby †. This I had out of the Welshe cronicle, copied by Sir Thomas Will' of Trefriw ‡.

Thomas ap Rodri married Marged, the daughter of Einion § ap Sisyllt, and had by her Cariadog ap Tho' who married Eva the daughter of Gwyn ap Gruff' Lord of Kegidfa, and had by her

\* This may be rendered, The Tenement of the Nephews of Conan.—Gwely is literally a bed—metaphorically any place of rest, hence house, habitation, manor, estate, or tenement.

[Gwely is likewise metaphorically a family, or household.] E.

† Kerkyby (Caer-gybi) is at present called Holyhead in Anglesey.

‡ Trefriw is a village in Carnarvonshire, situated on the southern side of the Conway, about two miles below Gwedir. It signifies the town on the bank or declivity.

§ This Einion ab Seisyllt was styled Lord of Meirionydd.—P. E.

**Einion ap Cariadog**, Lord of Penycen (where his manor is called to this day, **Llys \* Einion ap Cariadog**), **Bala deulyn**, **Penyberth**, and of many places more, as may be imagined by his greatness in his time. He had also **Gruff' ap Cariadog** Lord of **Friwlwyd †**, (where the ruins of his manor house do alsoe appeare), **Ystrad**, **Eskibion** (**Escobion**), and of other great possessions in **Rhos** and **Ravonjawg** (**Rhyvoniog**). He had likewise **Syna** married to **Gruff' ap Llewelyn**, by whom the said **Gruff'** begat **Llewelyn ap Gruffith** last Prince of Wales of the Brittainish race, who was slayne at **Buelt**. **Llewelyn ap Jerwerth ap Owen Gwynedd** having by the helpe of his Cosens **Conan ap Owen Gwynedd's** sonnes, deprived his uncles, began to raigne anno 1194, who atchieved soe many noble enterprises that he obtained the name of **Llewelyn the Great** among all posteritie and writers. His workes and worthy deeds being remembered by soe many writers, do make me the lesse to dwell upon the rehersall of them, seeing my purpose is no more than cursoriwise to touch the raigne of the princes, to the end to make the history ‡ I write more easie to be understood§. Only I have thought good to insert here a coppie of one of **King Henry the Third's** letters ¶ unto the said Prince **Lywelyn**, which is extant in

\* **Llys** signifies a palace, or great mansion house.

† **Friwlwyd** is a township situated in the parish of **Lanarmon** and hundred of **Evioneth \*** in **Cardarvonshire**: a small river runs through it bearing that name. **Ystrad** and **Eskibion** must probably adjoin to this township.

‡ The author by this, means the history of his own family.

§ When it shall appear in the reign of what Prince every thing was done. **Ruthyn MS.—P. E.**

¶ **HENRICUS** Rex Angliæ, &c. **Leofino Principi Abrft' Dno de Snowdon**, **Salutem & se**

\* **Evionydd** so called from its number of rivers. **Leland** says that **Aquitaine**, was so called for the same reason.—**P. E.**

1





the records of the treasure at Westminster (because it is extant in nos cronicle that I have seen) and was thence brought to light by Richard Broughton, Esq. Justice of N. Wales, the chiefe antiquary of England ; a man to whom his countrey is much beholden, preferring nothing more than the honour thereof, which he most carefully raketh out of the ashes of oblivion, in searching, quoting, and copying, to his great chardge, all the ancient records he can come by.

Anno Domini 1253, one Gruffith ap Conan ap Owen Gwynedd

tetum. Cum propter inundationes aquarum & viarum discrimina nunci nri ad vos accedere non possint, pcursores quendam literas pntes duximus destinandas, p quas majestati vestras significamus qd Nos p Nobis & nris vobiscum & cum oibus vestris pacem tenuimus & tenebimus in futur', & hoc dedimus ballivis nris & imprisii<sup>a</sup> in mandatis, ut pacem cum suis Comarchionibus firmiter teneant & observent. Quare vestram rogamus serenitatem quod ballivis in Marchia quoniamtibus<sup>b</sup> deus si placet in mandatis qd cum nris pacem teneant inviolatam: beneplacitum vestrum si placet nobis significetis. Valeat exlentia vestra.

This letter is printed as copied by Sir John Wynne. It should not be concealed however that upon examining the records in Rymer for the year 1233 and 17th of Henry the Third, it turns out to be a letter from Lewelin to Henry the Third, and not from that King to Lewelin. See Rymer, vol. I. par. i. p. 114. Hague Ed.

This letter is preceded by one from Henry the Third to Lewelin in the following words:

"Rex Lewelino Principi de Aberfrau, &c. Domino de Snawdun. Salutem. Noveritis quod die lune proximo post instans festam nativitatis beate Marie mittimus consilium nostrum usque Colewent, in occursum consilii vestri ibidem. Et ideo vos rogamus quod detis consilio vestro plenam protestatem ad exponendam consilio nostro plene voluntatem vestram, quia nos dabimus consilio nostro ex parte nostra plenam potestatem ad exponendam consilio vestro voluntatem nostram ad firmiter pacem faciendam inter nos & vos; ita quod nullus scrupulus sit inter vos & nos.

Et volumus quod id providebitur inter nos & vos, quod nullo modo vos, vel David filius vester aliquo tempore a servitio nostro recedatis.

Teste R. apud Hayam 2 die Septembris." Rymer, ibid.

The author seems to have ascribed the first letter to Henry the Third, on account of the expressions *Majestas vestra—rogamus serenitatem—valeat excellentia vestra*, which he chose should be applied to Lewelin. Whereas it appears by the letter from this King to Lewelin, that he considered him as his vassal, *Quod nullo modo vos vel David filius vester aliquo tempore a nostro servitio recedatis*.

<sup>a</sup> This word signifies one who undertakes another's business, from *empire*, an old French term used for *entreprendre*.

was buried in a monke's cowle in the Abbey of Conway. as sayeth the Welsh cronicle. Anno 1201 \* Prince Llewelyn banished Meredith the sonne of Conan ap Owen Gwynedd suspected of treason, and seised the cantreds † of Llûn and Evioneth, which were Conan's lands, into his own hands. Giraldus Cambrensis in his *Itenerarium Cambriæ* sayeth, that the cantreds of Llûn and Evioneth were the possessions of Owen Gwynedd's children when he passed through Wales, and that they had two castles; the one in Carnmadrin in Llûn, the other called Dewdraeth juxta montana de Erryri, which confirmeth that Ardydwy and Evioneth made but one cantred, for § Penrhyn Deudraeth, where that castle stood, is in Ardydwy ||. I am of opinion that the cantreds of Llûn and Evioneth were the possessions of Rodri, and given by this Prince Llewelyn, upon the expulsion of Rodri from the principality, to this Meredith ap Conan: howsoever it was, the posterity of Rodri held it till the conquest of Wales by the King of England, and then how they lost what remayned undivided into small portions, shall hereafter be shewed in this history.

Llewelyn, Prince of Wales, married Joane the daughter of

\* It must be admitted that these facts are not stated with proper attention to their dates. A most ingenious and learned friend (the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Pye) hath suggested, that if the two dates were transposed, they would agree with Wynne's History of Wales.

† A cantred is a district of country, which is thus described by Giraldus Cambrensis; "Unius commoti solum, i. e. quarta pars cantredi; habet autem hæc insula (sc. Mona) trecentas quadraginta villas, & pro tribus cantredis reputatur." The cantreds of Llûn and Evioneth are in the S.W. parts of Carnarvonshire. The latter is so called from its being watered with many streams, as Aquitaine in France is supposed to be.

§ Aberiaen in Penrhyn Deudraeth.—P. E.

|| Ardydwy is a hundred in the N. Western part of Merionethshire.





King John, begotten on his wife Agatha, daughter of Robert Ferrers, Earle of Darby. The King in marriage gave with his daughter the lordship of Elesmer in the marches of Wales. Some will affirme that Agatha was not the King's wife, but paramour. But that is most untrue, for he married her long before he was King, and because she bare no issue male (as some affirme) divorced himselfe from her; others thinke she died anone after he was King\*.

Prince Llewelyn in his youth, long before this recited mariage, had married Tangwystl, daughter of Lowarch Goch of Rhos, by whom he begate a most valiant sonne, called Gruffith ap

\* Joane was, however, most certainly the illegitimate daughter of Agatha, as there is in Rymer an instrument thus entitled, "De remissione Lewelino Walliæ Principi qui Joannam Regis filiam notham duxerat in uxorem."—It concludes, "Et quod ipsum deinceps pro filio habebimus," vol. I. par. i. p. 48. anno 1208. 10 Joh.

Accordingly, four years afterwards, King John sends a letter; "Dilecto filio suo Lewelino Principi Walliæ." Ibid. p. 65.

What seems still more extraordinary, in the next reign, this spurious daughter of K. John's is stiled by Henry the Third, his sister, and Lewelin sometimes his brother, as likewise David, the son of this marriage, his nephew. See vol. I. par. i. p. 81, 98, & 100. in which last reference Lewelin's wife is also stiled *Domina Norwalliæ*.

The stone coffin in which, according to tradition, this daughter of K. John's was buried, is still used as a trough for the cattle to drink out of, not far from a farm house called Friars, which is situated in the island of Anglesey about a mile N. of Beaumaris, on the sea-coast. She is supposed to have been buried in the neighbouring church of Llanvays; and that this part of tradition is true, appears by the following extract from an instrument in Rymer:

Pro Fratribus Minorum de Llanvaysii in Insula nostra de Anglesey.

.....Considerantes quod in eadem domo corpus tam filie Regis Johannis progenitoris nostri quam filii Regis Dacie, necnon corpora Domini de Clyffort<sup>a</sup>, &c. sepulta existunt. Rymer, vol. IV. par. ii. p. 83. A. D. 1414 & 2 Hen. V. The supposed coffin of Pompey's father is used as a watering trough for mules at Barcelona. Swinburne's account of Spain.

In the year 1236 died lady Johan Wife to Lewelin Prince of Wales the which was sister to K. Henry by the father's side. She died in March at Haveringe in Essex, and was buried at Tarente Nunnery, in Dorsetshire. *Lel. Collect.* vol. II. p. 455. N. ed. It must be admitted that these two accounts are very contradictory.

<sup>a</sup> For an account of the action in which this Dominus de Clyfford was killed see Dec. Script., c. 2464.

Lewelyn\*, who, as heire apparent in his father's time, after many warrs between him and his father, had the cantreds of Englefield, Ros, Rovoniog, (Rhyvoniog) and Dyffryn Clwyd given him by his father, being countreys next adjoyning unto England, to the end he might defend his country from the English.

This Gruffith, in his father's time, married Sina, or Senena, as the *Latine Booke*† calleth her, daughter to Cariadog ap Tho' Rodri ap Owen Gweyned: some of our Welsh pedigrees say she was the daughter of the King of Man, but it is an untruth; there are other most ancient records to the contrary‡, veryfying as here is laid downe.

\* In Dr. Powel's History of Wales, p. 298, this Gruffith ap Lewelyn is said to have been a lusty Gentleman, but base born. P.

† It is rather difficult to ascertain what history of Wales the author means to refer to by what he stiles the *Latine booke*. Caradoc of Lancarvon's History ended with the year 1156, and therefore long before Gruffith's marriage. It was continued indeed by the barda (which belonged to the two abbeys of Conway and Stratflur) to the year 1270; but Dr. Powel, who mentions the above particulars, does not state whether this continuation was in Welsh or Latin. As it chiefly depended upon the Bards at their *clera*, I should suppose that it was in the Welsh language. As for Geoffrey of Monmouth, whose history is in Latin, all the transactions he gives an account of are long anterior to what is here alluded to. It should therefore seem that the author refers to Matthew Paris or some of our Historians, who wrote in Latin, and occasionally take notice of Welsh occurrences.

‡ See in Powel's History articles of agreement between Henry III. and Senena wife of Gruffith, p. 301. Yet some Welsh Pedigrees suppose he married Rhanult daughter of Rheinalt King of Man. P.

Mr. Vaughan of Hengwrt, in a letter to Archbishop Usher, mentions a History of Wales compiled by Thos. Maelorius, which may be the History here alluded to. There is a Latin copy of the Annals of Wales at Cloddaeth, and probably many more of the kind at Hengwrt, &c. There is a copy of this letter of Mr. Vaughan to Archbishop Usher in Dr. Fowlke's papers which came from Halston. Mr. Vaughan says, he never had seen the book, but observes, that it is quoted by Dr. Powel, and believes the author Thos. Maelorius did not live much before Henry the 6th's time. I am satisfied he is the same person that is miscalled in a former note David Maelor, by Mr. Evan Evans; Mr. Evans's letter is dated the 14th of April, 1651. John Lloyd.—P. E.







Also it is evident her bretheren Eingan ap Cariadog and Gruffith ap Cariadog lost their lands in the quarel of her sonne, Llewelyn ap Gruffith, last Prince of Wales, when his uncle David held the principallitie against him, as shall hereafter appeare. In Prince Llewelyn ap Jerwerth's time you shall find mention made of Howell ap Gruffith ap Coman ap Owen Gwynedd, whom the Prince doth banish in anno 1211, and after, in anno 1215, you shall find him first remembered in the honourable voyage Prince Llewelyn made unto South Wales, when he raised Carmarthen. (Quere, Where his possessions were? and who are come of him?) Howell ap Gruff' ap Conan was buried at Conway.

I find not, during Prince Llewelyn ap Jerwerth's raigne, any mention made of any thing done by the posterity of Rodri ap Owen Gwynedd: a man may easily guesse the reason, for this Prince held them under, and suspected lest they should aspire to the princely dignity, which their ancestors sometime had held.

In the raigne of David, sonne to the said Prince Llewelyn by Joane King John's daughter, who began to raigne anno 1240, Eingan and Gruff' ap Cariadog, tooke parte with their sister's sonne, Llewelyn ap Gruff', the last Prince of Wales of that line, afterwards slayne at Buellt.

We receave it by tradition from father to sonne in Evioneth, that David ap Llewelyn being Prince by the ayde of his uncle, the King came to the towne of Pwllheli in Llŷn to parle with the bretheren Eingan and Gruff'; whom the bretheren met with such a force on the day of truce, that the Prince told them they were too strong to be subjects; whereto they answered, that

he was rather too weake to be Prince, and soe parted without any conclusion or agreement. In the end they were forced by long warrs to forgoe that countrey, and to lose their land there, and to joyne themselves to their nephew Llewelyn ap Griffith, who then had his court at Maesmynan in Flintshire. He also held, as is before mentioned, the cantreds of Englefield, Dyffryn Clwyd, Ros, and Rovoniawg, against his uncle David; haveing warre on the one side with the King, on the other side with his uncle, who gave them greate possessions (as some thinke) as afore is remembered about Denbigh Castle.

Llewelyn, the sonne of Gruffith, their nephew, after the death of his uncle David, attayning the government of Wales, restored to his uncles their lands and possessions in the county of Carnarvon. I find noe record of any thing done by them in the time of the same Prince. . .

Eingan ap Cariadog had a sonne, of whome mention shall be made hereafter, called Tudur Lord of Penychen\*, Penyberth, and Baladeulyn, and whether he had any more sonnes is to me uncertain.

Gruff' ap Cariadog married Leuki, daughter of Llowarch Vaughan ap Llowarch Goch ap Llowarch Holbwrch, and had but one sonne to my knowledge, called David ap Gruffith†, which David married Eva the sole heiress of Gruffith Vaughan ap

\* This is a township near the sea, in the Parish of Abererch in Carnarvonshire, and situated between the towns of Crekeith (Cracaeth) and Pullhely (Pwll-heli).

† He had also a daughter, Guerfil (or Gwerville) married to Inon ap Einion, according to Collins's account of the Wynne family. (Baronetage, vol. I.) But perhaps this may be a mistake, for Gwerville daughter of Eignan ap Cariadock mentioned hereafter. P.





Gruffith ap Mereithig of Penyfed in Evioneth, by whome he had three sonnes; viz. David, Meredith, and Howell. This appeares by the record of the extent made of Denbigh land, in the time of Edward<sup>+</sup> the first, by Henry Lacy Earle of Lincolne, to whome the King gave that land upon the conquest of Wales: for Henry Lacy minding to make a princely seate of the castle of Denbigh, per force compassed (compelled Denbigh MS.) the children of the said David ap Gruff' to exchange their possessions about Denbigh Castle (which were great) with him for other lands of lesse value in the said lordship, in the furthest part from him: the words of the record follow thus\*.

How they left the Lordship of Friwlwyd, and other their lands in the County of Carnarvon, I can find no record of, but only have it by tradition, that it was taken from them by the King's officers, for to this day it is parte of the principallitie† of Wales; which is not unlike, considering what befell to the other cozens, the heirs of Penychen, Penyberth, and Baladeulyn, whereof there is a very good record and certaine, remaynyng in the prince's treasury in Carnarvon.

Eingan ap Cariadog had one sonne called Tudur ap Eingan, and one daughter called Gwervile, whereof the record ensuing after maketh mention. You are to understand, that after the conqueste of Wales, the countrey in generall, as well as in particular, found themselves aggrieved for the wronges offered by the

\* By some mistake however the record is omitted in the MS.

† *Principality* here means lands held under the Princes of Wales, eldest sons of the Kings of England.

*+ If I am not mistaken, the Extent of Denbigh Land was not made till 26. Ed: III. However it is morally impotible that the Daughter in Law of a person who lived in the time of Edward I!! could be in existence in 1416, and Howyde the dau: of Howel did not die till that year. See Pag. 40. and Table II.*

English officers, and soe sent certaine men with their generall and private grieffes to the prince lying at Kennington \* neare London, in the time of the Parliament in anne 33d of Edward the First, among the which these are mentioned †.

It is necessary, for the understanding of this record, and the sense thereof, that you first understand, that after the death of Prince Llewelyn in Buellt, the King made a proclamation of peace to all the inhabitants of Wales, receiving them all that would come in and yeald themselves to him into his protection; graunting the use and fruition of their lands, liberties, and privileges they held before in their countrey under the Princes of Wales. This is the peace specified in the record: after which

\* This place in Domesday is stiled *Chenintune*, but now *Kennington*. It is situated in the parish of West Lambeth, and was formerly a royal palace. See Maitland's London, vol. II. p. 1387.

† Petitiones de Kennington factæ apud Kennington p homines North Walliæ p. Comitatus p singulares personas exhibitæ Dno principi filio Regis Edwardi conquestoris Walliæ & concilio suo apud Kennington extra London tempore Parliamenti pdict' regis habiti apud Westmesteriam 1<sup>ma</sup> Dominica quadagesimæ ano regni Regis pdict' Edwardi 33<sup>o</sup>, & Responsiones ad easdem Petitiones factæ & liberatæ Justic' North Walliæ sub privato sigillo dicti Dni Principis ad executionem responsionum pdict' faciend' & eas firmiter observandum in ptib' North Walliæ.

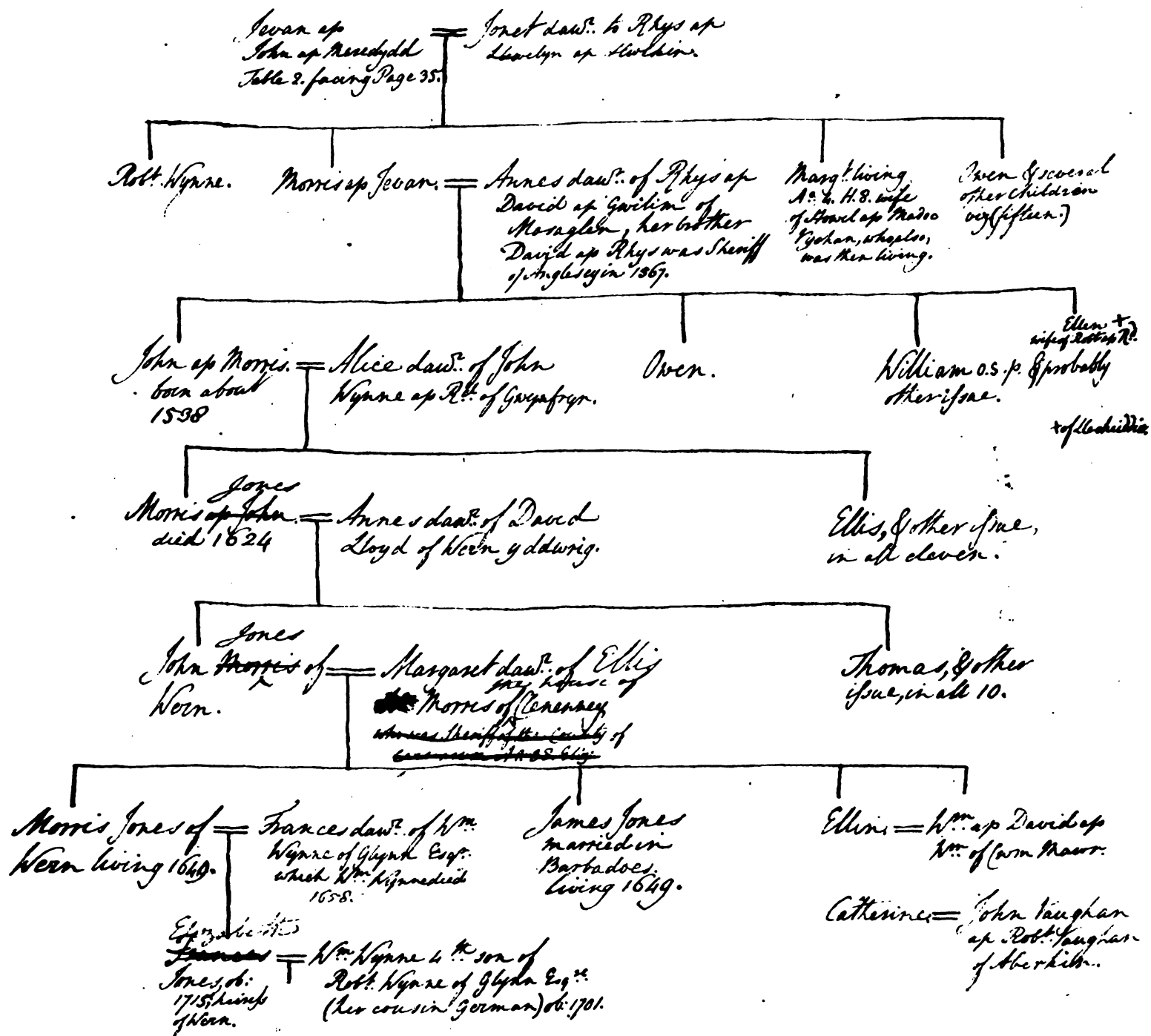
Ad petitionem Leolini & Gruffini filioru Oweni ap Llewelyn de eo qd Tudur ap Eingan avunculus erat Dnus de Baladeulyn, Penechyn, and Penyberth in Com' Carnarvon & seisisus post pacem pelamat' fere p. unum anum, post cujus decessum tenementa pdict' ad-Gwervillam sororem dict' Tudur descendisse debuerunt, sed domina Regina mater Principis affectavit tenementa illa & ea a Dno obtinuit, quæ quidem tenementa, nunc sunt in manu principis & ad eos jure hereditatis spectant; unde petunt remedium. Responsum est, qd Justic' informet se sup content' in pdicta petitione, & quo tempore dictus Tudur obiit, & si forisfecit necne, & omnibus circumstantiis, & certificet inde dominum ad petitionem eorum dicti Llewelyn & Gruffini qd dominus velit concedere eis aliquas ballivas in Com' Carnarvon p debita firma inde reddenda quousq' discussum sit quid de eorum hæreditate fuerit faciendum. Responsum est. quod ptinet ad Justic' ordinare de ballivis put utilitati domini melius viderit expedire.

There are very fine transcripts of these Petitions presented to the King at Kennington, in No. 4776 of the Harleian MSS. which is a large Folio, containing chiefly a most complete extent or survey of the counties of Anglesey, Merioneth, and Carnarvon, made in the 26th year of Edward the Third. The date agrees except in the difference of 32d year of Edward the Third instead of the 33d.









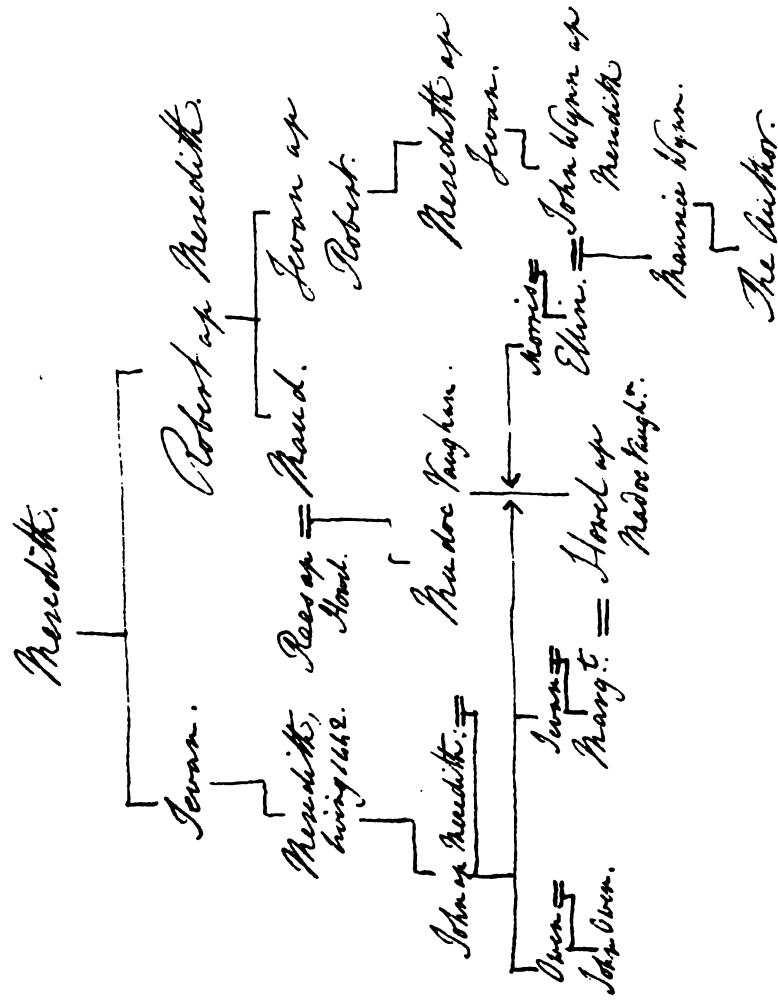


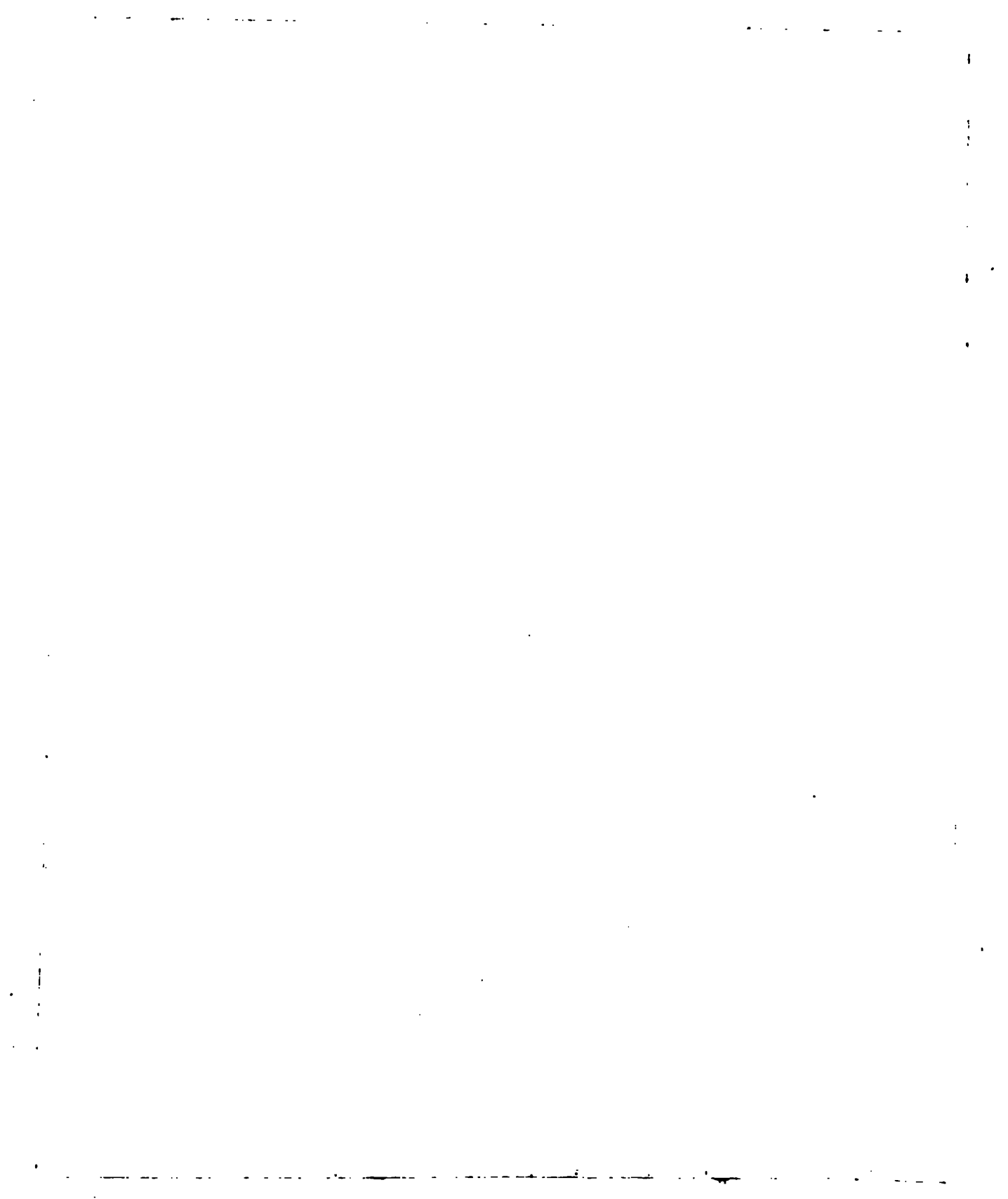


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3











Tudur ap Eingan had held his lands almost one yeare. To whom or to what family this Gwervill was married I cannot as yet learne. This land soe taken is part of the possessions of the principalltie of Wales to this day. It is to be noted here, that all the selfe same time, in the raighe of Edward the First, the Queene his wife tooke perforce the land of Eingan ap Cariadog's offspring in the county of Carnarvon, and Henry Lacie exchanged perforce, with Gruff' ap Cariadog's offspring in Denbigh land, and that the cozens stood in equall degree of kindred one to another, viz. cozen germans removed; which hard dealing must needs pull downe a kindred. It cannot be otherwise alsoe, but that Friwlwyd was by the same Queene, or by the Justice Will' Sutton or others, who dealt hardly with the gentrie of these parts in those days, taken from the posterity of Gruff', for it is parte of the principalltie to these daies, although the record proving this happened not to fall into my hands.

But to recurre to the offspring of Gruff' ap Cariadog, and their succession, with the estate and condition they lived in from time to time unto this day; it being my purpose to treat thereof. Out of the three brethren, David, Meredith, and Howell, who exchanged, as above is remembred, with the Earle of Lincolne, the posterity onely of Howell doth remaine in credite and shew in their countrey, the posterity of the other two being by division and subdivision of gavelkind (the destruction of Wales) brought to the estate of meane freeholders, and soe haveing forgotten their descents and pedigree, are become as they never had been. If you aske the question why the succession of Howell sped better

than the posterity of the other two brethren, I can yeald no other reason, but God's mercy and goodness towards the one more than the other, as God sayd in the booke of Moses, "I will have mercy " on whome I will have mercy," for they lived in the same commonwealth, and under the same storme of oppression, soe as if God had not left us a seed, we had beene like Sodom, or compared to Gomorrha. Nevertheless by the goodness of God we are and continue in the reputation of gentlemen from time to time sithence unto this day, as shall appeare by the discourse following. The offspring of David ap Meredith hold the land exchanged by the Earle of Lincoln with their ancestors, viz. the towneship of Yscorebryll in Eglwys vach \* and halfe Maethebrwyd in Llanrwst †, and are reputed to be descended from Gruffith ap Conan in the quarter where they dwell, but yet are not able to lay downe the certayntie of their pedigree.

David ap Gruff' ap Cariadog (as before mentioned) married Eva the daughter and heiress of Gruff' Vaughan ap Gruff' ap Morythig, and by her had that land which in the extent of North Wales is called Gwely Griffry in Penyved in Evioneth in the county of Carnarvon; the quit rent of the Prince out of this Gwely ‡ is £3 19s. Which Morythig the grandfather of this woman was, I am uncertaine, for there were two of that name;

\* Eglwys vach is a parish in the S. W. part of Denbighshire.

† The town of Llanrwst is also in Denbighshire, not far distant from the parish of Eglwys vach.

‡ This word hath been before explained.

\* Eglwys vach signifies the church in the vale, from the obsolete word Bâch, which bears that import. Evan Evans. Officers say that this church is so called, from Bach ab Carwed, a chieftain in the seventh century. See Owen's Biography. W. D.—P. E.





one in North Wales, who is descended from Sandde Hard O Vortyn, from whome the chiefe men in *Yale* and *Maelor*\* derive their descent; and another in South Wales, called Morythig Warwyn, of whome are come all the Vaughans. It did not appear by the Welsh pedigrees, that this Griffry was descended of Morythig, (Moruddig) till I found the record in the Exchequer of Carnarvon. If a man list to be curious which of both Morythigs this was, let him find whether of them lived nearest this time, and that sure was he.

Howell ap David married Eva the daughter and heire† of Jevan ap Howell ap Meredith of Evioneth (by some cards‡ of pedigree she is called Myfanwy§) and had with her large possessions in Evioneth, which to this day remaine in the posterity of the said Howell, yet mangled with division and subdivision of gavelkinde.

Memorandum, That Evan ap Howell ap Meredith had another daughter and coheiress, married to one of Penllyn of the stocke of Riridflaidd of Penllyn, her name was Gwenllian, and she married Jevan ap Gruff' ap Madog ap Riridflaidd of Penllyn||. The said Jevan ap Howell ap Meredith had a third daughter and coparcener that married Howell ap Gronw ap Jevan ap Gronw ap Howell of Maelor, and by him she had two daughters, viz. Gwervile ma-

\* Extensive Lordships in Denbighshire.

† Rather Co-heir. P.

‡ This is used for charts.

§ See an ode to *Mifanwy Fechan* amongst Evans's Specimens of Welsh Poetry. *Menfanis*, i. e. my woman, or my dear. E.

|| Penllyn is a hundred in Merionethshire.

ried to Tudur ap Hob-y-dili, the other was Alician, who married Puleston, and brought Havod y werne to that family. Evan ap Howell ap Meredith, father to this Eva, was brother to Gruff' ap Howell ap Meredith, who was father to Einion ap Gruff', father to Jevan ap Einion and Howell. This Howell was knighted at the field of Poyctiers, and by our countrymen is reported to have taken the French King; but howsoever it was, he did such service there, that the Prince bestowed a messe of meate to be served up dayly during his life before his battle-axe, which after was bestowed on the poore, whereof he was called Sir Howell y *fwyall* \*. He was alsoe constable of Chester and Criketh Castles †, and had the mills to farme, and other many great office, and places of profit. Of Jevan ap Eingan his brother are descended very many gentlemen of principall account in the county of Carnarvon. Howell ‡ begate Meredith and David; Meredith ap Howell dwelled in Evioneth at his houses Keffin y fan, (Cefn-y-fan) and Keselgiffarch, (Cesel-gyfarch) and David ap Howell in Llanrwst in Denbigh land, at his house called Henblas in Maethebroyd. Meredith ap Howell married Morvydd the daughter of Jevan ap David ap Trahayarn goch of Llûn, who was descended of the house of Rys ap Teudwr. In the extent of North Wales, made in the 26th of Edward the Third, you shall

\* *Fwyall* signifies an axe.

† Some small remains of this castle still continue. It is on the sea-coast of Carnarvonshire.

‡ Not Howel of the battle-axe, but Howell ap David ap Gruffith ap Cariadog, &c. According to Collins, Howell ap David had five sons by Eva daughter of Jevan ap Howell ap Meredith; viz. Meredith, Robert, Tudor, Gruffith, and David. P.







find that Meredith ap Howell and others are the heires of Gwely Griffri, David ap Howell \* his brother married the grand-daughter of Jevan ap Howell ap Meredith, the daughter of Gwenllian, and Jevan ap Griff' ap Madog ap Jerwerth was wife to Reignall ap Bleddyn, and had by her issue Robin Vaughan ap David ap Howell, who married Angharad the daughter of Rys ap Gruff' ap Rys ap Ednyfed Vaughan, and had no issue male, but one daughter called Cattrin vch Robin Vaughan, who married Rys ap Eingan Vaughan of Llanrwst, a gentleman of the house of Penwyn in Nanconwy and Denbigh Land; who having noe issue male by her, but daughters, the greatest parte of the possessions of that house, which were now worth a thousand marks a yeare, came to the Salsburies. For Robert Salisbury the elder, fourthe sonne of Tho. Salisbury of Llewyny, in the county of Denbigh, Esq. married Gwenhwyfar, the daughter of Rys ap Eingan and Cathelin the daughter of Robin Vaughan ap David ap Howell. Rys ap Eingan had one other daughter by her, called Lleify †, to whom he gave faire possessions; but nothing comparable to the other, that was married to Gruff ap Madog Vaughan in Abergeley ‡ All the inheritance of this Robin Vaughan ap David ap Howell, held after the Welsh tenure, within the lordship of Denbigh, was, by the custome of the countrey, to descend to his heire male, and so descended to Jevan, the sonne of Rob't ap

\* Davydd ab Howell, brother to Mredd. ab Howell, married the grand-daughter of Iefan ab Howel ab Mredd., being the daughter of Gwenllian. Denbigh MS.—P. E.

† Leuci who married Owen ab Gryffydd.—P. E.

‡ Abergeley is a Town in the western part of Denbighshire, near the sea.

Meredith his cosen, as hereafter shall be laid downe in the life of the said Jevan. I have in my house the probate of the testament of Morvydd, the wife of Meredith ap Howell, as faire to behold as at the first day, bearing date anno 1416. The probate of the will is dated at Krikieth, before one Rob't Swaython, official of the Archdeacon of Merioneth. Meredith ap Howell had by her two sonnes, Rob't and Jevan, and a daughter, called Marsli, married to Jenkin Conwey of Ruddlan, mother to Hen Sion *acer* \* y Conwey, of whome all the Conweys, of Ruddlan and Bodriddan, and Lords of Prestatyn, are descended. She was the first Welsh-woman that was married into that house, as John Conwey, Esq. my cosen, (now Lord thereof) told me. John Tudur †, one of our Welsh heraulds, sayth, that there was a third brother, called Robin, whose daughter and heire Ithel Vaughan married, and therefore those descended from him doe quarter Owen Gwynedd's eglets ‡.

I find an obligacion, bearing date 20 July, 2<sup>d</sup> Edward IV. wherein John ap Meredith standeth bound to Jevan ap Robert Meredith to stand to the award of Gruff' ap Robin ap Gruff', and Lewis ap Howell ap Llewelyn, arbitrators elect for the said John ap Meredith, and Meredyth ap Rys, and Jevan ap Howell ap Rys ap Ein-gan, arbitrators elect for the said Jevan ap Robert, to parte certaine tenements betweene them in Evioneth: and in case they could not

\* There is no word in Dr. Davies's Dictionary nearer to this than *achor*, which he supposes to signify *little*.

\* Aer, i. e. the heir of Conwy.—P. E.

† John Tudur of Wigfair in Rhôs, Denbighshire, was John Conwy's domestic Bard. He was a skilful Herald: and satirized the vices of the age very freely.—P. E.

‡ These are mentioned in the Preface to have been the arms of Owen Gwynedd.





agree, then was Howell ap Eingan ap Howell Coetmore\* named umpire.

Memorandum, That during Robert ap Mered' his time, the inheritance descended to him and his brother was not parted after the custome of the Countrey, as being gavelkind; but Jevan being married enjoyed both their houses, viz. Keven y vann and Keselgyfarch: and for that Jevan, then Constable of Criketh, clave fast to the King, Owen Glyndwr burned them both to cold ashes†. Neither was the inheritance betwene their posterity divided, untill such time as Jevan the sonne of this Robert was married and had many children, as may appeare by the indentures of partition betwene Jevan the sonne of this Robert, and John ap Meredith ap Jevan, grandchild to the other brother Jevan, the one parte of which indentures I have. Those that made partition betwene them were these, Thomas ap Robin ap Kychwillan, that married Gwenhwyfar, daughter of Jevan ap Meredith. This Thomas ap Robin‡ was after beheaded neare the castle of Conwey by the Lord Herbert, for that he was a follower of the house of Lancaster: and his wife is reported to have carried away his head in her apron. Some asfirme Jevan ap Meredith to be the elder brother, and soe doth all the race that are of him contend: myself, and those that are come of Robert, have this reason to think him to be the elder. Robert had issue Jevan, Jevan his brother had issue Meredith, Meredith had issue John, John being of man's estate had the

*+ now called Gostymcegid  
This place passed by  
the marriage of Catherine  
dau. of Robt. Owen Eyn  
with Robt. Wynne  
of Glynn, into the  
family of Wynne, &  
from them thro' the  
Owens of Parkington  
&c. to Mrs. Dunsby Gore  
the present proprietor*

\* Howell Coytnor, in consequence of his heroic behaviour in the French wars, got new armorial bearings, asure a chevron between three spears, heads argt. embrued gules.—P. E.

† A similar expression of *cold coals* is used afterwards in this History.

‡ Thomas ab Robin assisted in conveying the Earl of Richmond to France.—P. E.

tuition of his uncle Jevan ap Robert, my ancestor, and yet Robin Vaughan ap David ap Howell's land in Denbigh land, being cozen to them both, descended to Jevan ap Robert, my ancestor, and not to John ap Meredith; which I hold for an invincible argument that Jevan is descended from the elder. Alsoe I have the King's Writte, directed to Robert Meredith, Meredith ap Jevan ap Meredith, and to the principall gentlemen of Evioneth, for the apprehension of Jevan ap Robin Herwr, a notable rebell outlaw, and others of his qualitie; which writt doth place Robert ap Meredith first before his nephew, which alsoe may fortifie the opinion of them who hold him to be the elder brother to Jevan ap Meredith. The wordes of of the writ doe follow, in hæc verba \*

But howsoever it be, the gavelkind and custume of the Country not yealding to the elder any prerogative or snperiority more than

\* HENRICUS Dei gratia Rex Angliæ & Franciæ & Dñs Hiberniæ, dilectis sibi Roberto ap Meredith, Meredith ap Jevan ap Meredith, Rys ap Tudur, Howell ap Madog ap Jevan, John ap Gronw, & Howell ap Jevan Vaughn, Salutem. Quia p certo sumus informati, qd Jevan ap Robin & alii diversi notorii utlegati & incogniti de die in diem vi & armis cum diversis felon' in comitiva sua, ut dicitur, faciunt ambulationes sup diversos fidelium nostrorum infra comitatum nrum de Carnarvon & diversos de eisd' fidelib' spoliaverunt, & male tractaverunt in destructionem & depauperationem ligeorum nostrorum manifestam, ac contra formam statutorum progenitorum nostrorum in hac pte pvisorum. Assignavimus vos & unumquemq' vestrum conjunctim & divisim ad arrestandum & capiendum pdict' Jevan ap Robin\* & alios in comitiva sua existent' p corpora ubicumq' inventi fuerint infra comotum de Evioneth & eos salvos & securos usq' castrum nrum de Carnarvon indillate duci faciatis constabulario nro ibid' liberandos & in eodem castro moraturos quousq' de eorum deliberatione aliter duxerim' ordinandum; & ideo vobis mandamus qd circa pmissa diligenter intendatis & ea faciatis cum effectu sicut inde coram nobis respondere valueritis. Damus autem univsis & singulis fidelibus nris tenore psentium firmiter in mandatis quod vobis & cuilibet vestrum in omnib' quæ ad arrestationem & captionem pdicti Jevani ap Robin & aliorum ptinent' intendentes sint, auxiliantes, fortificantes, & p omnia respondentes. In cuius rei testimonium has litteras nostras fieri fecimus patentes. T. meipso apud Carnarvon 28 die Augusti anno regni nri vicesimo.

\* Quere, whether this Iefan ap Robin was not Iefan ap Robin bâch of Trerudd, in the parish of Towyn, whose pardon was procured and obtained by the means of Siencin Vychan of Caethle, Squier of the body to H. 7.—P. E.







to the younger, it is not a matter to be stood upon. Indeed Jevan ap Meredith married in his youth Llenau the daughter of Howell Sele ap Mereicke (Meuric), of the house of Nannau in Merionethshire\*, and begat by her Meredith ap Jevan; whome in his youth he matched with Margaret the daughter of Einion ap Ithel of Rhiwedog† in Penllyn, in the county of Merioneth, Esq. of the tribe of Ririd flaidd, and Howell ap Jevan ap Meredith.

Quere. If any males descended of this Howell be living now? Owen Holland of Berw, and Rytherch ap Richard of Myfyrion in Anglesey are descended by females from him, as Richard Gruffith ap Hugh affirmeth? Alsoe it should be knowne how this land is gone from his posteritie.

This Einion ap Ithel was Esquire to John of Gaunt Duke of Lancaster, to whome for his service, as well in the time of warre

\* Nannau is a very ancient family-seat, about three miles N. of Dolgelly in Merionethshire. It stands perhaps on higher ground from the valley beneath, than any Gentleman's house in Great Britain. In Saxton's maps it is spelt *Nanna*, as it continues to be commonly pronounced. There are some traditional anecdotes about Howell Sele, or Selif, which is the same with Solomon, in the neighbourhood of Nanney. Howell Sele of Nanney stood out for Hen. IV. against Owen Glendower.—MS. Life, penes the Rev Mr. Price, Librarian of the Bodleian Library.—Howell was attacked by David Gam of Brecknock. Ibid.

† Rhiwedog is also a very ancient family-seat in Merionethshire, about a mile S. E. of Bala. In Saxton's maps it is spelt Ruedok. The name is said to signify the bloody-bank, and by tradition a great battle was fought near this spot.

Llwarch hên addresses his son Cynddelw in the words following in a poem still extant:

Cynddelw, dadw dithau y rhus

Ar addel yma heddiw

Cudebam un mab nid gweir.

"Cyndelow, defend thou the steep pass of the hill against all that assault us to day, it is in vain to be fond of the only son which is remaining."

Llwarch hên in the *field at Rhiwedog*, after he had lost all his children but Cynddelw. E.

\* Copper ba'lers, a spit, and two silver spoons were found there by the late William Vaughan, Esq.—P. E.

A. 1394.

as peace, he gave a pension of twenty markes per annum, issuing out of his manor of Halton\* (Cheshire): The charter I have seene being in French, with the Duke's seale and armes, and it remaineth in the custody of John Owen of Ystymcegid †, Esq. the heire of Owen ap John ap Meredith.

Meredith ap Jevan ap Meredith, begat by Marget the daughter of Einion ‡ ap Ithel, John ap Meredith, (who married and was at man's estate afore his grandfather's brother, Robert ap Meredith, my ancestor, ever married;) and Robert ap Meredith, Abbot of Bardsey. This may be accounted for, as we have it by certaine tradition, that Robert was almost eighty years old before he ever married, and then in his dotage fancied and married Angharad the daughter of David ap Llyn (Llewelyn) ap David of Kefn-melgoed in the county of Cardigan, whose wife was the daughter of Ryth-erch ap Jevan Llwyd of Cogerddan in that county; by her he had issue Jevan ap Robert and several daughters. From this Robert the Abbot are descended my three *Pencenedle* §, because

compare  
this with Page 74. They  
contradict each other.  
This, judging from dates,  
is the more probable.

\* There are many Halton's in England. See Spelman's Index Villaris.

† Ystymcegid was formerly one of the seats of the Owens of Cleneney. and is in the parish of Dolbenmaen in Carnarvonshire. The mansion-house of this family is now at Porkinton in Shropshire; and it may be perhaps said that there is stronger proof of the same spot having been the capital mansion of the Owens for a longer time, than probably can be produced by any other family in Europe. The following order of Henry III. transcribed from Rymer, proves that Porkinton belonged to the Owens nearly 650 years ago. "Rex Lewelino Principi Sal. Sciatis quod— & Bledh filius Oeni de Porkinton venerunt ad fidem & servitium nostrum." See Rymer, vol. I. par. i. p. 79. A. D. 1218. and 2 Hen. III. ‡.

‡ This Einion, after the death of Walter Lord Mauney, (who was by patent sheriff of Merionethshire for life) succeeded him in that office, being in great favour with Henry the Fourth, in the beginning of whose reign he died.

E. citing a MS. of Mr. Robert Vaughan of Hengwrt.

§ *Pencenedle* signifies head of a family.

‡ This is very incorrect; Porkinton did not belong to the family of the Owens until the marriage of John Owen (who was Secretary to the famous Sir Thomas Walsingham) with the Heiress of the place. The person here mentioned is probably Bleddyn the son of Owen Brogentyn; from which Owen Porkinton is said to derive its name, being a corruption of Brogentyn; but probably Owen may have derived his name from the previously existing one of the Place.

2  
1



they are descended of church nobilitie, viz. Gruffith ap Richard of Madrya issa, Robert ap Richard of Llocheiddor, and Owen ap John ap Jevan ap Robert of Bron y foel, and Kefn Kyfanedd in Evioneth.

The case why this Robert ap Meredith was soe long unmarried may appeare partly by record, and partly by tradition; it is certaine, that as in the time of Henry the Fourth, Jevan ap Meredith had matched his sonne (as is aforesaid) to Einion \* ap Ithele's daughter, who belonged to the house of Lancaster: soe he clave fast to that house in the time that Owen Glyndwr rebelled in Wales. Soe that in the time of that warre he and Meredith ap Hwlkyn Llwyd of Glynllifon †, had the charge of the town of Carnarvon, and an English captain was over the castle; in revenge whereof, Owen burned his two houses, Keven y van and Keselgyfarch in Evioneth. In the processe of continuance of this warre Jevan died at Carnarvon, and was brought by sea (for the passages by land were shut up by Owen's forces) to Penmorva ‡, his parish church, to be buried. Robert his brother, taking a clean contrary course, was out with Owen Glyndwr, as may be gathered by a pardon granted him in the ninth yeare of Henry the Fifth, then Prince of Wales, which I have to shew, whercof the true copie ensueth§.

\* Einion ab Ithel of Rhiwaedog covenanted with John Duke of Lancaster, to attend him for one year in his expedition to Cuienne, with one man at arms and one archer: this indenture is still extant at Rhiwaedog, "Cest endenture faite entre le tres haut & puissant jo: Duc de Cuyen & "Lancestre d'un parte et Eignon ab Ithel d'autre parte, &c. &c."—P. E.

† This place lies about six miles S. of Carnarvon.

‡ Penmorva signifies at the end or head of the marsh. This village is situated at the entrance of the Traethmawr sands, which divide Merioneth and Carnarvonshire.

§ HENRICUS illustris Regis Angliæ & Franciæ primogenitus, Princeps Angliæ, Dux Aqu-

\* Robert ap Richard was living in 1590.

Rys Goch \* of Eryri, a bard of that time, made him a song, shewing what notable qualities he had, and yet durst not name

taniæ, Lancastriæ & Cornubiæ, & Comes Cestriæ, locum tenens metuendissimi dni nri regis & patris in ptib' South Walliæ & North Walliæ oibus & singulis psentes literas nras inspecturis, Salutem. Sciatis quod nos autoritate & potestate nobis p ipsum metuendissimum dnum nrum regem & patrem comissis, as etiam pro quadam fine nobis p Robtum ap Meredith ap Howell nuper rebellem dicti dni nri regis & patris in partib' Walliæ, ad opus ejusd' dni nri regis & patris soluta; recepimus & admisimus dictum Robertum ad gratiam pdicti dni nri regis & patris, & ei pardona- mus noie ejusd' dñs regis & patris sectam pacis suæ quæ ad ipsum dnum nrum regem & patrem ptinet p omnimodis pditionib', rebellionibus, incendiis, felonis, adhæsiõib', transgressionibus, misprisionib', & malefactis quibuscumq' p pdictum Robertum in ptibus & marchis Walliæ ante hæc tempora factis sive ppetratis, unde indictatus, *retatus*,<sup>a</sup> rectatus, vel appellatus existit, ac etiam utlegariis, si qua in ipsum his occasionib' fuerint pmulgata, & firmam pacem pdicti dni regis & patris inde concedimus, ac ea bona & catalla sua quæcumq' dicto dno nro regi & patri occa- sionibus premisals forisfacta noie & autoritate pdictis concedimus p psentes: ita tamen qd stet rectus in curia pdicti dni regis & patris & nra, si quis versus eum loqui voluerit de pmissis vel ali- quo pmissorum; in cujus rei testimonium has litteras nras fieri fecimus patentes. Dat' London xx die Septembris anno dicti metuendissimi nri regis & patris Henrici quarti post conquestum ix<sup>o</sup>. Irrotulatur ad sessionem tentam apud Carnarvon die Lunæ proximo post festum assumptionis beatæ Mariæ Virginis ano principatus dni H. principis Walliæ, undecimo.

\* Rys Goch flourished about the year 1400. See Lluyd's Arch. He lived at Havod Garregog near Beddcelbert.—The late heiress<sup>b</sup> of this place (who married Mr Hughes of Trevan) was de- scended from him in a direct line. E.

" This Rys Goch o Erryri descended paternally from Collwyn, one of the 15 tribes, he being the son of Davydd ab Iorwerth ab Iefan Llwyd ab Ririd ab Carwed ab Gwyn ab Ednowen, &c. and lived upon his own lands at Havod-garegog in Nanmor, in the parish of Bedd Gelert, and Mawris Williams Nanmor is his heyre, and enioieth that house and lands at this day, being the sonne of William ab Hugh ab Lewys ab Morys Gethin, the sonne of Margaret the dau: and heyre of Rhys goch o Ryri. The sayde Mauris Williams of Nanmor is alsoe paternallye descended from Tydyr Hob y dili, (mentioned in a former page), and Gwerfil his wife the dau: of Howell ab Gronw by his wife the daughter of Iefan ab Howell ab Meredydd, as being the sonne of Wil- liam ab Huw ab Lewys ab Morys Gethin ab Iefan ab Rhys ab Tydyr ab Hob y dili, whose right name was Robert ab Tudor ab Einghan ab Cynric ab Llowarch ab Heylin ab Tyfid ab Tangno ab Ysbrwyth ab Marchwystl ab Marchweithian. Also the wife of Morys Gethin was Gweryl verch Gryffydd ab Davydd ab Iefan ab Mredydd ab Gronw ab Iefan ab Llowarch ab Davydd goch ab Davydd ab Gryffydd, who was the sonne of Llewelyn the great, and father of the last Prince Llewelyn ab Gryffydd. This Gryff. ab Llnn is mentioned in page 16 of this Book because these

<sup>a</sup> This word properly signifies to *injoin* or *forbid*; it is corruptly used for *retitus*. See du Cange, in articulo. Rectatus from *rectum* signifies prosecuted.

<sup>b</sup> Jane, daughter of Morys Wyn, married Zachens Hughs, A. B. of Trefan.—She died in 1764. P; E.







him therein, for that as it seemeth he was an outlaw at that time when the song was made, but sheweth in the song his descent from Gruff' ap Conan\*, and that he was the hope of that stocke:

The Song that Rys Goch made to Robert ap Meredith beginneth thus :

Hir y bu Ruffudd ruddhar  
 Waywdan fab Cynan ein car  
 Ar goesgeirch hir gwayw ysgwyd  
 Yn gorwedd Llew Flangledd Llwyd  
 A'i dalaith Llwybr goddaith Llaw  
 Fynnodd gynt yn kelffeiniaw  
 Tann oerfab bid tan arfoll  
 Na chryn ddyn ni chrynodd oll  
 Mae arno gaink llathrfaink Llv  
 Etifedd propr yn tyfv  
 Yn dwyn ystod fragod frig  
 Garw ben hydd gwr boneheddig  
 O bryd a Llafn hyfryd hedd  
 Ag ysgythr brwydr ag osgedd  
 O gampau anwydav naid  
 Frytanawl hen frytaniaid  
 Om gofyn emyn ymwal

ancestors of mine are mentioned in this Book, and I copiens the same, I thought good to lay downe my descent from them in a different character, that it may appeare I am descended from many others mentioned in this Booke."

The above note was transcribed out of an old MS. copy, apparently of the time of Syr John Wynn, and now in the possession of Mrs. Dd. Jones of Ruthyn.—P. E.

\* i. e. Gruffith ap Conan Prince of Wales. P.

Dyn anosbarthys ei dal  
 Pwy i henw nim difenwir  
 Bedydd ar dy gwerydd dir  
 Y gwr a elwir yn gainc  
 Dylwyth-fawr ar dalaith-fainc  
 Alexander niferoedd  
 A mwr a phen mawr hoff oedd  
 Trystan ddoethran addeithryw  
 Dvlath avr ei dalaith yw  
 Bonedd ond odid benoeth  
 Y cwysg yn hen farwn coeth  
 Rhwng Hafren hoywdsiwr gloywglan  
 Llugwrth a lli a garthan  
 Ni ad gwawd pechawd heb pwyll  
 O gandaith genfigendwyll  
 Son am y Cymro os iach  
 Pwyllog doeth a fo pellach  
 Pe megid evrid araith  
 Cenav o neb Cynan iaith  
 Hir ddewr lan hardd eryr lid  
 Henw mygr o hwn y megid  
 Ymgroesed gwawd dafawd hen  
 Ymgais ni wn i amgen.

Rys Goch or Eryri ai kant.

" Long did our friend [or kinsman] Gryfudd ap Conan, with his  
 " bloody spear, fiery lance, shield, and flaming sword, lye dormant  
 " like a greyheaded lion, whilst his country was all in a blaze by





" the hands of the enemy, who heaped together dry wood to kindle  
 " [welcome] the fire. Tremble not at the relation, he did not  
 " tremble. From him there grows a beautiful branch eminent in  
 " battle and master of the British Games. If my *disordered head* \*  
 " is asked the christian name of him who is called the descendant  
 " of the great family on the throne of the province, it is Alexander,  
 " the beloved chief of the multitude with the golden crown of  
 " *Trystan the Wise* †. I prophecy, he will deserve the title of a  
 " wise baron, and withstand an army between the famous water  
 " of the Severn and the clear stream of Garthen. Dark envy and  
 " detraction will not suffer his praise to be celebrated. If it is his  
 " desert, timid caution avaunt. If any strait, beautiful, and brave  
 " offspring of Cynan's lineage ‡ was ever bred, this must be he.

\* This is a common expression in the Welsh language: when any thing dangerous was spoken, they feigned madness.—This explanatory note was added by the learned gentleman who made the version of this poem.

† Trystan was the son of a King of Cornwall, who was educated under Merlin, and became a most famous Knight errant of Arthur's Round Table.<sup>a</sup>

From his having been instructed under such a tutor, and many of his achievements having been performed in Cornwall, Wales, and Ireland, it is not extraordinary that he should be celebrated by the Welsh Bards. As for the epithet of *wise*, he merited this title probably from the instructions of Merlin, and the ancient Knight Errant was supposed commonly to have every other virtue, as well as that of valour. Hence *les neuf Preux* most probably signifies the *nine Worthies*, though they are at the same time *Champions*. Thus a MS. in the French King's library is entitled, "*Les nobles faits du tres preux & bon Chevalier Messire Tristan*." See the *Bibliothèque des Romans*, p 252.

Dean Percy hath a very fair MS. in old French, of the adventures of the same Knight amongst his curious and valuable collection: it is supposed to be of the 13th or 14th century, and is thus entitled, "*La Grande Istoire de Monseigneur Tristan*."

Vidi Paris, *Tristano* & piu di mille

Ombre Mostrommi, & nominoll' a dito

Ch'amor di nostra vite dipartille.

Dante, *Inferno*, c. 5.

‡ The expression *iaith* in the original signifies properly *tongue*: thus *lingua Walensium* in some old records signifies the *Welsh nation*. For more ample satisfaction, however, on this head, the

<sup>a</sup> See the *Adventures of this Knight*, printed at Venice, 1552, 2 vol. 4to.

" Beware the scoff of those who have before detracted ; if I spake  
 " of him it must be to his honour."

Composed by Rees Goch (or Rhys the Red) of Eryri\*.

This is the most ancient song I can find extant which is addressed to any of my ancestors since the reign of Edward the First, who caused our bards all to be hanged by martial law †, as stirrers of the people to sedition, whose example being followed by the governours of Wales, untill Henry the Fourth his time, was the utter destruction of that sort of men. Sithence, this kind of people were at some further libertie to sing and to keep pedegrees, as in ancient time they were wont, since which we have some light of antiquitie by their songes and writings ‡. From the reign of Edward the First to Henry the Fourth, there is therefore noe certainty, or very little, of things done, other than what is to be found in the Princes records, which now §, by tossinge the same from the Exchequer at Carnarvon to the Tower, and to the offices in

reader is referred to Hurd's learned and ingenious Dialogues, vol. ii. p. 17. where he instances the use of the word *laga*, which signifies both a law and a country.

\* This Bard is placed by Llwyd in his *Archæologia* in the 15th century, about 1420. He styles him Rys Goch o Eryri, or of the *Snowdon mountains*. It should seem that the inhabitants of this country have long been much addicted to poetry, as a rock is shewn by the shepherds, pretty near the summit, under which, if two persons sleep on a midsummer's eve, the one will wake out of his senses, and the other a poet.

† Edward the First hath been also accused of having destroyed all the ancient records and writings in Scotland, after his conquest of that kingdom. See this however very ably refuted by Sir David Dalrymple, in his *Examination into the supposed antiquity of the Regiam Majestatem*. Edinburgh, 1769, 4to.

‡ See a commission, in the time of Q. Elizabeth, to settle who were real bards or otherwise, prefixed to Evans's *Specimens of Welsh Poetry*.

§ It should seem from this, that these records were removed from Carnarvon near the time that the author wrote.







the Exchequer at London, as alsoe by ill keeping and ordering of late dayes, are become a chaos and confusion from a total neglect of method and order, as would be needful for him who would be ascertained of the truth of things done from time to time. I have, to my chardge, done what I could, but for my travell have reaped little or nothing, as you see.

You shall finde in the ministers accompt, in Henry the Fourth his time, Robert ap Meredith, farmour of Dolbenman\*, the King's weare of Aberglaslyn †, the mill of Dwyfor, and of other the King's thinges about his dwelling.

Jevan the sonne of Robert ap Meredith being a child of tender age, on the death of his father, was in the tuition of his cosen german's sonne, John ap Meredith ap Jevan, his next kinsman, who crosse married him and his sister with Howell ap Rhys ap Howell Vaughan of the house of Bron y foel in Evioneth. This family, in those dayes was of greate possessions and abilitie, and was then accounted the chief house descended from Collwyn, whereof there be many of great account in that countrie.

The widdow of Robert ap Meredith married Meredd' ap Rhys ap Jevan Llwyd of Vchaf without the consent of her allie John ap Meredith, and so was faine to flie the day she was married to her husband's house before she dined, foure and twentie miles off, and that of rough way.

\* Dolbenman is a village in Carnarvonshire, not far from Penmorva, the situation of which hath been before described.

† There is a famous salmon-leap at Aberglaslyn in Carnarvonshire, about a mile from the mouth of the river of that name, which divides Merionethshire from that county.

At this time, or near about it, fell a dislike and variance between Will' Gruffith, Esq. Chamberlaine of North Wales, and John ap Meredith, who at that time bare chief rule and credit in the quarters where he dwelled: the one by reason of his authoritie (which in those dayes was greate to them who held that roome\*) expecting that all should reverence and obey him, the other in regard of his descent, kindred, and abilitie in his countrey, acknowledging none but his Prince his superior. Herehence grew the debate,

— *nec Cæsar ferre majorem* †,

*Pompeiusve parem*, —

which continued long. To John ap Meredith his kindred and friends clave like burre, soe that then it began to be a proverbe, or phrase, to call the septe ‡ and family of Owen Gwynedd, *Ty-lwyth Sion ap Meredith*; which Englished is "the kindred of John ap Meredith." This beginning of division however bred in the posteritie of the two houses a conceit of dislike which continued long after in the kindred, the one towards the other, but with matches and continuance of time it is worne out.

This John ap Meredith was cosen to Owen Tudur, and went with a hundred gentlemen of North Wales, his kinsmen, to visit

\* *Roome* is here used in the same sense with *place* or *office*. Thus we find in Rymer, vol. vi p. iv. p. 69, a grant of Q. Elizabeth, anno 1559, of the office or *Roome* of reading the Civil Lectures in the university of Oxford. As also ibid. p. 154. anno 1559, of the *Roome* or office of Chief Master of our games, pastimes, and sports, ibid. p. 155. See likewise afterward a grant to Roger Askam of the *Room* or office of Yeoman of our bears. Ibid.

† This is printed as it stands in the MS. though it may shew the author was not very accurate in his Latin prosody.

‡ This word is frequently applied by Spenser, and Sir John Davies, to the Irish families and clans.





the said Owen, being in trouble at Rwsgr castle, called *Brynbyga*\*. In his returne being beset with enemies, favourers of the house of Yorke, he made an oration to comfort his people, willing them to remember at that time the support of the honour and credit of their ancestors; and concluding, that it should never in time to come be reported, there was the place where a hundred North Wales gentlemen fled, but that the place should carry the name and memory, that there a hundred North Wales gentlemen were slayne. Because also some of his kinsmen had brought with them all their sonnes, and some others had but one sonne to succeed in their name and inheritance, (as Howell ap Llewelyn ap Howell and others,) he placed all these in the rearward, out of the fury of the fight, whilst all his sonnes were in the vanward, which himself led, where he was sore wounded in his face, whereof he was called Squier *y graith*† to his dying day: but God gave his enemies the overthrow, he opening the passage with his sword.

Queen Catherine, being a French woman borne, knew noe difference betweene the English and Welsh nation, untill her marriage being published, Owen Tudur's kindred and countrey were objected to disgrace him, as most vile and barbarous; which made her desirous to see some of his kinsmen. Whereupon he brought to her presence John ap Meredith and Howell ap Llewelyn ap How-

\* In Sir John Price's description of Wales, prefixed to Wynne's History, p. 20, Usk in South Wales is said to be called likewise *Brynbyga*; *Rwsgr* castle therefore should perhaps be written *Yr Usk* or *Wysg*, when it would signify the *Castle upon the Usk*. As this place lies at such a distance from Gwedir, and the inhabitants of the two divisions of the Principality have so little connexion with each other even to this day, such a mistake is by no means improbable.

† Squier *y graith* signifies Esquire with a scar. Charles, Duke of Guise, called *Calafre*, from a gash on his face.

ell his neare cosens, men of goodly stature and personage, bat wholely destitute of bringing up and nurture, for when the Queen had spoken to them in diverse languages, and they were not able to answer her, she said, *they were the goodliest dumbe creatures that ever she saw.*

This being not impertinent to the matter I treat of, and preserved by tradition, I thought fit to insert here.

John ap Meredith had by his wife five sonnes, viz. Morris, Jevan, Robert, Owen, and Gruff\*, whereof Robert, in his father's time, was slayne without issue, near Ruthyn, in the following manner: [The rest survived their father, and have many descended from them]:

\* *Living 11<sup>th</sup>  
Aug. 1511.*

The Thelwals of Ruthyn\* being ancient gentlemen of that countrey, who came into it with the Lord Grey, on whome King Edward the First bestowed the countrey of Duffryn Clwyd†, where at contention with a septe or kindred of that countrey, called the family of Gruff' Goch. These being more in number than the Thelwals, (although the Thelwals carried all the offices of the countrey, under the Lord thereof, the Lord of Kent, then treasurer of England) drave the Thelwals to take to the castle of Ruthyn for their defence, where they besieged them, untill the siedege was rayzed by John ap Meredith, his sonnes, and kindred, to whome the Thelwals sent for ayde. In that exploite Robert the sonne of John ap Meredith was slayne with an arrow in a wood, within the view of

*The Earl of Kent  
was treasurer of  
England in 1464  
and 1465.*

\* Thelwal, who published the *Digest of Writs*, was of this family, and dates his work from his poor house (Llanbedr-Hall) near Ruthyn. It is about a mile from that town, on the road to Mold, in Flintshire.

† Or the vale of Clwyd, *Duffryn* bearing that signification in Welsh.







the castle of Ruthyn, called *Coed Marchan* \* ; in revenge whereof many of the other side were slayne, both at that time and afterwards. Some affirme John ap Meredith to have beene at a field in Penyl† for Tho' Gruff, which field was fought betweene Tho' Gruff' ap Nicolas and Henry ap Gwillim, and the Earle of Pembroke's captaines, where Tho' Gruff' got the field, but received there his death's wound.

Henry VII. minding on his entry into England to clayme the crown against the tyrant Richard the Third, wrote this letter ‡, which is still extant, to John ap Meredith in hæc verba § :

#### BY THE KING.

Right trusty and well-beloved, we greete you well : and whereas it is soe, that, through the helpe of Almighty God, the assistance of our loveing and true subjects, and the greate confidence that wee have to the nobles and commons of this our principalltie of Wales, we be entred into the same, purposing by the helpe above rehearsed, in all haste possible, to descend into our realme of England, not only for the adoption of the crowne, unto us of right

\* *Coed* in Welsh signifies a wood.

† Pennal, the place where Tho' Gruff' ap Nicholas was wounded, is knowne by tradition ; and lieth in Wttra Bennal, in the parish of Towin, over against Llidiart y parke crache, and in the midst of the way ; being a little round pavement, and almost covered with grass.<sup>a</sup>

‡ " I have seen the original letter, and perused it at Gwedyr in 1690. H. Bangor. — P. E.

§ Henry the Seventh, when he claimed the crown of England against Richard the Third, landed at Milford Haven, and marched from thence through South and North Wales into Leicestershire, where the battle of Bosworth was fought. He had probably been informed at Milford, that John ap Meredith had considerable influence in N. Wales. [He might also know it from his family, as they were nearly related.] P.

<sup>a</sup> This note was added by some person who had perused the MS. with attention.

O  
*"The letter referred to is in my possession  
 R. Fenton."*

appertaining, but alsoe for the oppression of the odious tyrant Richard late Duke of Glocester, usurper of our said right ; and moreover to reduce as well our said realme of England into its ancient estate, honour, and property, and prosperitie, as this our said principallitie of Wales, and the people of the same theitor *dearest\** liberties, delivering them of such miserable servitude as they have piteously long stood in. We desire and pray you, and upon your allegiance strictly charge and command you, that immediately upon the sight hereof, with all such power as ye may make, defencibly arrayed for the warre, ye addresse you towards us, without any tarrying upon the way, untill such time as ye be with us, wheresoever we shall be, to our aide, for the effect above rehearsed, wherein ye shall cause us in time to come to be your singular good Lord, and that ye faile not hereof as ye will avoyd our grievous displeasure, and answer it unto your perill. Given under our signet at our †, &c.

To our trustie and well-beloved John ap Meredith ap Jevan ap Meredith.

Jevan ap Robert ap Meredith, my ancestor, haveing, as afore is remembred, crosse married with the house of Bron y foel in Evioneth, had by his wife, called Catherine, three sonnes, Meredith, Robert, and John. After her death he married Gwenhwyfar, daughter of Madog Vaughan, of the house of Llwyn Dyrus, descended of Sir Gruff' Lloyd, by whome he had two sonnes, Gruff' Vaugh-

\* *erst*, liberties, in all the copies which I have examined. E.

† The date and place from which this order issued are omitted in the MS.





### TABLE III.

A daughter of Tudar ap Howell ap Rhys ap Sister of Jevan ap Robert, Griffith, &c. 2d wife. Howell Vaughan, 1st wife.

1st wife.  
An inheritor of the Rys ap Howell ap Margaret, da. of Hugh Trevors.  
Rhys, &c.  
Convey.

Thomas ap Rhys== ap Howell	1st wife.	Alice, 6th da. of William Gruff== ap Robm, of Cochlillian.	2d wife.
			ap Howell, &c.

1	William Wynne.	3	Rees Wynne.	4	Rytherch.	5	Margaret
---	-------------------	---	----------------	---	-----------	---	----------

9  
 Lowry  
 Catharine =  
 8.  
 John =  
 7.  
 marr.  
 Jonat,  
 2dly Sir John  
 Puleston, of  
 Emeral, knl.  
 d. 1530.  
 Gawdril,  
 Mereidith of  
 Wynne ap  
 Lloyd.  
 0  
 9  
 Elen = John

er= =	1	3d wife.	2	Griff'=Gwen, fch. Wynn of	4	Ow
as, jane, of Gwydir Ma of Sir herain, Wynn of Wynn						

kt. of Beaumont  
at Platteville  
Date: 27 May 1894  
L.H.W.S.

Wynn of Gwydir, Bt so created	of Astrad, only son, m. in 1589.	of Jo. Van of Blaen-y- Cwm.	Ingyn ad- Gryff Sheriff Bodsc-	Marg Rd. M Bodsc-
--	--	-----------------------------------	---	-------------------------

See his marriage and descendants

Rbl. W. yn. = Barbara, fl. Rd. Williams of Llwyn.

Rt. W. ynn. = Catherine, fl. of J. Denbigh of C.

*H<sup>v</sup>*. — Owen Wynn—Ann Ch.  
after H<sup>v</sup>&c. pp.

Clerk of the Green  
Cloth to Ch. 2d  
1717, agd 67

MAWIS WYN of Llwyn, = Elisabeth, fr. Francis Edwards of Penhesco, married in 1722. *See* *the Penesco* *Manuscript* of 1722.

Owen Wynn of Llwyn, = Ellenor, da. of Thomas A  
born 1724. ob. 1780. *See Log!*  
Sons of Liverpool. Ancestors in  
*See* *See* *See* Sir Thomas

I Watcyn Edwards Wynn, Esq.,—Anna Maria, Relict

Catharine, sister of Jevan ap Robert. Gwenhyfar.  
Howel ap Rhys. | *See Table II* |

Robert, John Griffith Vaughan =  
Jevan = A daughter.

*1*  
with ap Jevan, = Margaret, da. of = Jonet, da. of = A. da. of Jevan  
556.  
*2*  
Morris ap John Jenkyn Gmfc. † ap John ap Heilin,  
ap Meredith. *3d wife.* *4th wife.* *5th wife.*

[illegible]

15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Idwala, Elen, =	Jane, =	Agnes, =	Gwen, =	Mar, =	Elliw, =	
der=Stonek, da, of		Wife of				
penall, Tho, of Fias du,		Robert			garet,	

Thomas, = Lowry, da. of John W. =

arll.  
Cadd :  
Sir Wm.  
Griffydd  
of Penrhyn.

John Wynn.—Margt. da. Cadwalader.—Jane, da. John Williams, —  
of Gruff Vān ab Thomas a goldsmith in  
of Cors-y-gedol. of Madryn of T

John Vaughan, = Winifred,  
ab Rhys Tho.

Wynd Ltd.  
of Trall-  
wyn.

Williams of  
Lyndulas, M. P.  
for Mon. 18. J. 1.  
Godfrey Pry-  
dorch, of  
Myrtian.  
Cadwallader Van, A. M.—  
Rector of Osguthorp  
Leicestershire.

John Williams=Grise, da- Ellen, fl.=Robert Wynn ab Col,  
 of Lyvedulas, a | of Roger Wynn of Berth ddu,  
 learned Antiq. Hughes of

A son from

ryffydd Williams, sold his Estates, d O. S. P. in 1708.









an and Jevan, and a daughter. Jevan died\*, being but one and thirtie yeares of age, of the plague, at Keselgyfarch his house.

In the warrs betweene the houses of Yorke and Lancaster, he (as all his) were Lancastrians, and he was one of the captaines who laid waste the Duke of Yorke's estate in Denbigh land; in revenge whereof, the King sent Will' Herbert, Earle of Penbroke, in Edward the Fourth's time, who came with a greate army to recover the castle of Harddlech †, held by David ap Jevan ap Einion for Jasper Earle of Penbroke, then beyond the seas. He also wasted with fire and sword all Nanconwy, and the whole countrey lying betweene Conway and Dovi. He graunted at the same time a protection or safe conduct to Jevan ap Robert ap Meredith, and to his followers to come to parle with him, which I have to shew, under his seale and arnes, in hæc verba ‡.

\* This was about  
the Year 1467.

\* i. e. Jevan ap Robert, the father. See before. P.

† When this town is thus spelt, it is said to signify *the beautiful or high rock*; when in the common way [*Harlech*], it may be rendered *the town upon the rock*. As, unfortunately, the lately published Memoirs of Lord Cherbury are become excessively scarce, it may not perhaps be improper to insert from thence an anecdote relative to this siege of Harlech. The governor being summoned to surrender; sent an answer to the following effect: "That he had held out a castle in France" till all the old women in Wales talked of him; and that he would defend his Welsh castle till all "the old women in France should hear of it."

‡ OMNIB', &c. fidelibus ad quos p'sens scriptum p'venerit, Guillelm' Comes Pembrochiæ Justic' dñi regis in ptibus suis North Walliæ, salutem. Sciatis nos dedisse & p' p'sentes concessisse Jevan ap Robt de comoto Evioneth in Comitatu Carnarvon saluum & securum conductum intrandi, veniendi, ambulandi, expectandi, comorandi ac salvo eund' & redeundi p' & infra Comitatum de Carnarvon & Merioneth p' se, bonis, & catallis, sine arestatione, molestatione, impechimento, damno, violentia, manucaptione, pturbatione, seu gravamine aliquo tam ad sectam dñi regis, quam ad sectam partis alterius p'sonæ cujuscumq' a die confectionis p'sentium quousq' p' nos habuerit p'monitionem sex dierum. Datum sub sigillo nostro quarto die mensis Novembris anno regni regis Edwardi 4ti post Conquestum octavo.

• See Llwyd's Archæolog. p. 276. article *fair*.

He was a most goodly man of personage, of greate stature\*, (as may appeare by the Welsh songes made unto him), and most valiant withall. Besides the turmoyles abroad, he sustayned deadly feud (as the northerne man termeth) at home in his *doore*†, a warre more dangerous than the other.

His sister, having been married to Howell ap Rys, died within few years after her marriage, leaving noe issue male: and Howell ap Rys married Tudur ap Gruff' ap Einion's daughter of Afdydwy, a courageous stirring woman, who never gave over to make debate betweene her husband and his next neighbour and brother-in-law, my ancestor. Many bickerings passed betweene them, either making as many friends as he could, and many men were slayne, but commonly the losse fell on Howell ap Rys his side.

David ap Jenkin being a neare kinsman to Howell ap Rys, and then an outlaw, a man of greate valour, came to aide his cosen against my ancestor, but prevailed not, though they came upon the suddaine on my ancestor's house, and whilst he was from home. Thereupon (as we have it by credible tradition) David ap Jenkin wished his cosen to keepe friendship with his brother-in-law, for, said he, I will not come with thee to invade this man's house when he is at home, since I finde such hot resistance in his absence.

This women‡ caused the parson at Llanwrothen§ to be murdered, because he had fostered|| to my ancestor; but God so

\* I. e. Jevan ap Robert. See before. P.

† A mode of expression which seems to explain itself.

‡ The second wife of Howell ap Rhys, before mentioned. P.

§ Llanwrothen is a parish in Merionethshire, which borders upon Traethmawr sands.

|| The strong connexion and affection between the Foster-father and son seems to be now much





wrought, that the murderers, being three brethren, were all slayne afterwards by my ancestor, in revenge of the parson's unworthy death.

I have a number of obligations wherein Howell ap Rys standeth bounden for the observation of the peace, and awards touching that controversie; but the plague taking away my ancestor, ended the strife betweene them, which was likely (if he had lived) to have ended with the death of one of them or both. Soe bloody and irefull were quarells in those dayes, and the revenge of the sword at such libertie, as almost nothing was punished by law, whatsoever happened.

The cause of this mortal hatred betweene them grew (as it is credibly reported) in this sorte: John ap Meredith and Howell ap Rys were ever highly at variance; my ancestor having had bringing up with his cosen John ap Meredith, affected him best, though allied nearly to the other, which was taken soe heinously by Howell ap Rys, that he converted the summe of his rancor upon his brother-in-law and next neighbour. This quarell, my ancestor being dead, never ended till, in assaulting the house of the said Howell, by the sonnes of John ap Meredith with their cosen Gruffith ap John ap Gronw, (a gentleman of great account, who had been captaine, as is reported, of a company of launsiers in Aquitane): the said Gruffith ap John ap Gronw was slayne, being shot into the beaver with an arrow out of the house, whereupon the said Howell was faine to leave the countrey to avoyd the furie of the revengment of blood.

dropped in Wales: it continues however in full force in the uncivilized parts of Ireland. In a letter from Mr. Wynne [penes P. Panton, Esq.] to his father, and dated in 1623, he desires that the widow of an Evan Thomas may be bestowed on his foster-brother who worked in the garden at Gwedir.



In the partition of the inheritance of Jevan ap Robert ap Meredith betweene his five sonnes, according to the custome of Wales; Henblas in Maethbrood and all the land in Llanrwst in Denbigh land decsending unto him, (as afore is mentioned, as cosen and next heire to Robin Vaughan ap David ap Howell ap Gruff'), fell to be the parte and portion of Gruff' Vaughan his sonne, who married the daughter\* of Gruff' ap Madog Vaughan, who was grandchild to Rees ap Einion Vaughan, viz. his daughter's daughter. You are to understand, that though Robin Vaughan did not defeat his cosen and next heire Jevan ap Robert ap Meredith of the land held in the Welsh tenure, yet minding the preferment of his daughter, as much as law would suffer him, he charged the land with a mortgage of £.12. to Rys ap Einion Vaughan his sonne-in-law, which the said Rys ap Einion Vaughan did release to Gruff' ap Jevan ap Robert in parte of his mariage goods with his cosen, the daughter of Owen ap Gruff' ap Madog: the very release I have in my custody.

God hath shewed such mercy to our kind, that ever since the time of Rodericke the sonne of Owen Gwynedd, Lord of Anglesey, our common ancestors, there lived in the commonwealth in eminent sorte one or other of our name, and many together at times. I have in my minde, in the perusal of the whole course of the history of our name and kindred, compared or likened God's worke, in that to a man striking fire into a tinder-box, by the beating of the flint upon the steele there are a number of sparkles of fire rayseed, whereof but one or two takes fire, the rest vanishing away. As for ex-

\* She is called soon after this the Daughter of Owen ap Gruff' ap Madog. It is here given more contracted. P.







ample, in Einion ap Cariadog, Gruff' ap Cariadog, and Sir Will' Cariadog, alias Willcocke\* Cariadog, brethren; Einion ap Cariadog as should seem the elder brother, was Lord of Penychen, Penyberth, and Baladevlyn. His sonne, Tudur ap Einion, died without issue of his body, and his lands were begged by the Queene, King Edward the First his wife, as appeareth in this history. Gruffith, the second brother, was Lord of Friwlwyd, Ystrad, and Eskibion; he had issue David, which David had three sonnes, David Chwith ap David, Meredith, and Howell; which are mentioned before to have exchanged their estate at Denbigh with Henry Lacie, earle of Lincolne. Will', alias Wilcocke Craidog, the third brother, married an inheretrix in Penbrokehire, where his posteritie have remained ever since, haveing, from the house called Newton, named themselves Newton Craidog, both in Penbrokehire and Somersetshire. Some of the Newtons claim their lineal descent from Howell ap Gronw, Lord of Ystradtowin, an'o D'ni 1400, descended from Rytherch ap Jestin, Prince of Wales. Note, among these three brethren, the posteritie of the one remaines; of the other two, the one is vanished, and the other gone out of the countrey. Of Gruffith† his grandchildren, only the posteritie of Howell are extant, who was before stated to be the youngest of the three sons of Davydd ab Gruffith, Lord of Friwlwyd. Lastly, in Jevan ap Robert ap Meredith his children, which were five, only the posteritie of Meredith are extant, and of account. Whereupon comparing things past with things to come, I presage God's mercy to the kindred hereafter, as heretofore.

\* Will Gôch, or Red Will.—P. E.

† i. e. Gruffith ap Cariadog's grandchildren. P.

Now after this large digression, to returne to the course of this former historie, Rys ap Einion Vaughan haveing had warning, as aforesaid, that Henblas\* should be redeemed, hasted to build Brynsully, before that Michelmas appointed. I have scene an old man in my time, called Jevan ap John ap David Vaughan, at least of ninety years old; this man's mother served Rys ap Eingan Vaughan at that time, and she was wont to reporte, that corne † sayling them to *build* ‡ the house, they reaped the corne that grew in the *raine* § to serve that turne, as the corne in the ridge was not readie.

The warrs of Lancaster and Yorke beginning this summer, made Jevan ap Robert ap Meredith forgetfull of his promise to redeeme the lands; for in the time of that civill warre land was not ought worth, neither was it redeemed during his life. In those warrs Jevan ap Robert ap Meredith, even in the sixth of Edward the Fourth, with David ap Jenkin and other captaines of the Lancastrian faction, wasted with fire and sword the suburbs of the town of Denbigh. In revenge of this, Edward the fourth sent William Earle of Penbroke with a great army to waste the mountaine countreys of Carnarvon and Merioneth shires, and take the castle of Hardlech, (held then by David ap Jevan || ap Einion, for the two

1466-1467.

\* *Henblas*, as well as *Brynsully*, is afterwards described, as being in the Lordship of Denbigh. It is supposed that *Henblas* is the same with *Plashén*, or *The old mansion*.

† i. e. to be used as straw. P.

‡ i. e. to thatch it.

§ *Raine*, in some parts of Engknd, is used for *furrow*, or the lower part of the ridge. Wormius derives the word *Rane* (from whence the Runic character) from either *ryn*, a furrow; or *ryn*, a gutter or channel. See lett. *Run*, p. 2. 1636. cited in the New Translation of Mallet's Denmark, vol. I. p. 363.

|| Iefan ab Einion of Cryniaith, in Llandrillo, Edernion, and Maesyneuadd near Harddlech, P. E.





Earles, Henry Earle of Richmond, and Jasper Earle of Pembroke), which Earle did execute his chardges to the full, as witnesseth this Welsh rime.

Hardlech a Dinbech pob dor

Yn cunnev,

Nanconwy yn farwor ;

Mil a phedwarcant mae Jor,

A thrugain ag wyth rhagor\*.

In that expedition Jevan ap Robert lay one night at the house of Rhys ap Einion at Henblas, who was married to his cosen Catherine, daughter of Robin Vaughan ; and setting forth very early before day, unwittingly carried upon his finger the wrest† of his cosen's harpe, whereon (as it seemeth) he had played over night, as the manner was in those days, to bring himselfe asleepe‡.

\* " At harddlech and Denhigh every house was in flames, and Nantconway in cinders; 1400 " from our LORD, and sixty and eight more." This translation was made by a learned Divine, well known in the literary world for several publications. He was also so obliging as to add the following metrical version in the stile of Sternhold and Hopkins :

" In Harddlech and Dinbech ev'ry house

" Was basely set on fire,

" But poor Nantconway suffer'd more,

" For there the flames burnt higher :

" 'Twas in the year of our LORD

" Fourteen hundred sixty-eight,

" That these unhappy towns of Wales

" Met with such wretched fate."

† The wrest of a harp is the hollow iron with which the strings are tuned ; this term is still used by the harpichord tuners for an instrument which they use for the same purpose.

‡ The oldest Welsh tunes are very plaintive.\*

\* " Some of the Welsh Harpers, in the memory of man, were able to play from the character " used for the old Welsh musical notes : and there are many such MS. notes in the Hengwrt Lib- " rary." E. Evans.—P. E.

This he returned by a messenger unto his cosen, with this message with all, that he came not into Denbigh land to take from his cosen as much as the wrest of her harpe : whereby it appeareth, that by his means neither her house, nor any of her goods were burnt, wasted, hurt, or spoyled. Thus both her houses, Henblas and Brynsyllty, escaped the Earle Herbert's desolation, though the same consumed the whole burrough of Llanrwst, and all the vale of Conway besides, to *cold coals*\*, whereof the print is yet extant, the very stones of the ruines of manie habitations, in and along my demaynes, carrying yet the colour of the fire. John ap Meredith being cosen german's sonne to Jevan ap Robert ap Meredith, notwithstanding he was soe much elder than he, (as the one was in man's estate, and the other but a youth), had the government of his uncle †, and of his *livings*‡: during which time of his nonage, Robin Vaughan ap David ap Howell dying, as aforesaid, John ap Meredith came over with his uncle to Llanrwst and the Lordship of Denbigh, to take possession of the inheritance lately befallen him, called the Henblas in Maethbrood, where Rys ap Einion Vaughan, and Catherine daughter of Robin Vaughan then dwelled. Haveing surveyed the land, they gave Rys ap Einion Vaughan then warning that he should avoyd the land at Michaelmas, for then he should have the twelve pounds mortgage-money payed him. On this he requested to be tenant, and was answered by Jevan ap Robert ap Meredith, that he should lie there at times himselfe.

\* i. e. To cinders : the author hath before used *cold ashes* in the same sense.

† i. e. His Welsh Uncle, for Jevan was cousin-german to John's father. P.

‡ *Livings* hath before been used by the author in the same sense with *estate*.







and therefore would not sett it. Whereupon Rys ap Einion Vaughan built Brynsully house, upon parte of that land which Henry Lacie, Earle of Lincolne, Lord of Denbigh, exchanged with our ancestors, and which he had bought of some of our kinsmen that had the same by gavel-kind. Their name, however, is forgotten, as is the pedegree of two other freeholders in Maethbrood besides, which held land in my time in that towne, lineallie from that grant and exchange. The one was called Rys ap Llewelyn ap David, whose posteritie doth yet inherite parte of this land : the other the wife of one Lancelott, a weaver, whose inheritance my uncle, Gruff' Wynne\*, bought, being but a matter of three pounds a-yeare. Into soe little partes did the gavelkind by many descents chop our inheritance, being at first large. Conferring oft with the freeholders of the parish of Llanrwst, my neighbours, how they held their lands, and from what common ancestor they were descended ; most of them are said to be descended lineallie from Ednyfed Vaughan, in the township of Tybrith and Garthgarmon. Inquireing also of them whence the freeholders of Maethbrood, Rys Llewelyn ap David, and Lincellott's wife, were descended, they said they were foreigners, and came from the castle of Denbigh, as though the castle of Denbigh did procreate men : which sheweth that the tradition is not yet forgotten, from whence they came. The most parte of that towne of Maethebrood is in our brood, blessed be God !

Robin Jachwr, the greatest antiquarie of our conntrey, being at Gwedir with my grandfather, and going one day to a *chwarevfa*

\* Of Berth-ddu. See the pedigree at the end of the MS. P. Berth-ddu is in Llanrwst parish.

*gampau* \*, where the countrey was assembled at a place called Gardd y felin in the parish of Llanrwst, asked whether he would command him any service thither. Nothing, said my grandfather, having a nosegay in his hand by chance, but deliver this nosegay to the best gentleman thou seest in the company, upon the credit of thy skill: who delivered the same with protestation of his charge in the presence of all the company to Llyn ap David, Rys Elyn ap David's father. I cannot however get his pedigree, nor Lancellot's wife's pedigree in any certaintie, to joyne them to ours: the reason is, that poverty soone forgets whence it be descended, for it is an ancient received saying, that there is noe poverty but is descended of nobilitie, nor noe nobilitie but is descended of beggerie.

When Adam delv'd and Eve span,  
 Who was then a gentleman?  
 Then came the churle and gathered good,  
 And thence arose the gentle blood.

Yet a great temporall blessing it is, and a greate heart's ease to a man, to find that he is well descended, and a great griefe it is for upstarts and gentlemen of the first head † to looke backe into their descents being base, in such sort, as I have known many such hate gentlemen in their hearts, for noe other cause but that they were gentlemen. The conditional promise by God to David was, "that if his children would keepe his laws, he should not want a man of his loynes to sit on his seat for evermore." Whereby he

\* *Chwarefa gampau*, Country games or exercises.

† A metaphor from deer, a young buck of the second year is called a buck of the first head P.





had two things promised him, propagation of his seed, and eminence of continuance in the world. The Recabites, for their obedience to their father's commandment, not to drinke wine, have the like promise of God\*.

During the time the Earle of Pembroke's armie lay in Snowdon, Jevan ap Robert was faine to leave his owne house, and lodge at night in the rocke called Ogo filen, standing at Meillionen, in the parish of Beddcelert, and continued all the next day with the Lancastrians. His friends and followers skirted the armie, and skirmished with them in the strait and rough passage of Nantwhynen †, untill at last he was sent for by the Earle under his protection and received into grace, as may appeare by the Earle's deed under his hand and seale: the like he did not graunt to any in North Wales, as farre as I can heare.

The begining of the quarell and unkindness between Jevan ap Robert and Howell ap Rys ap Howell Vaughan, grew in this sort. Jevan ap Robert, after his sister's death, upon some mislike, left the company of Howel ap Rys, and accompanied John ap Meredith his nephew, and his children, who were at continuall bate with Howell ap Rys. The fashion was in those days, that the gentlemen and their retainers met commonly every day to shoote matches and masteries: there was noe gentleman of worth in the countrey; but had a wine cellar of his own, which wine was sold to his profit; thither came his friends to meete him, and there

\* See Jeremiah, ch. xxxv.

† Nantwhynen lies within a small distance of Bedd-celert. The rough and strait passage, mentioned by the author, soon opens into a most picturesque valley.

spent the day in shooting, wrestling, throwing the sledge, and other actes of activitie, and drinkeing very moderately withall, not according to the *healthing*\*, and gluttonous manner of our dayes.

Howell ap Rys ap Howell *did draw a draught*† upon Jevan ap Robert ap Meredith, and sent a brother of his to lodge over night at Keselgyfarch, to understand which way Jevan ap Robert ap Meredith meant to goe the next day, who was determined to shoote a match with John ap Meredith's children at Llanvihangel y Penant‡, not farre from John ap Meredith's house. This being understood, the spie, Howell ap Rees his brother, slips away the night to his brother, and lets him know where he should lay for him. Now had Howell ap Rys provided a butcher for the purpose, that should have murdered him; for he had direction by Howell to keepe himselfe free, and not to undertake any of the company untill he saw them in a medley, and every man fighting. Then was his charge to come behiude the tallest man in the company, (for otherwise he knew him not, being a stranger,) and to knocke him down; for Howell ap Rys sayd, "Thou shalt soone  
"discerne him from the rest by his stature, and he will make way  
"before him. There is a foster-brother of his, one Robin ap Inko,  
"a little fellow, that useth to match him behind: take heed of  
"him; for, be the encountre never soe hot, his eye is ever on his  
"foster-brother." Jevan ap Robert, according as he was appoin-

\* Drinking of healths.

† This is a phrase frequently used by the author, and imports *drawing a plan, or settling a scheme*.

‡ This parish is very near to Beddcalert. All this part of the country is very mountainous, and therefore very proper for ambuscades.







ted, went that morning with his ordinary company towards Llanvihangel to meete John ap Meredith. You are to understand, that in those dayes, and in that wild worlde, every man stood upon his guard, and went not abroad but in sort and soe armed, as if he went to the field to encountre with his enemies. Howell ap Rys ap Howell Vaughan's sister being Jevan ap Robert's wife, went a mile, or thereabout, with her husband and the company, talking with them, and soe parted with them; and in her way homewards, she met her brother a horseback, with a greate company of people armed, rideing after her husband as fast as they could. On this she cried out upon her brother, and desired him, for the love of God, not to harme her husband, that meant him noe harme; and withal steps to his horse, meaning to have caught him by the bridle, which he seeing, turned his horse about. She then caught the horse by the tail, hanging upon him soe long, and crying upon her brother, that, in the end, he drew out his short-sword, and struck at her arme; which she perceiving, was faine to lett slippe her hold, and running before him to a narrow passage, whereby he must pass through a brooke, where there was a foot-bridge near the ford; she then steps to the foot-bridge, and takes away the *canllaw*\*, or handstay of the bridge, and with the same letts flie at her brother, and, if he had not avoyded the blow, she had strucke him downe from his horse.

—*Furor arma ministrat.*

Howell ap Rys and his company, within a while, overtooke Jevan

\* Richards, in his Dictionary, renders this word accordingly a long rail used as a side fence to a bridge. It also signifies a counsellor or attorney.

ap Robert and his followers, who turned head upon him; though greatlie overmatched. The bickering grew very hott, and many were knocked downe of either side. In the end, when that should be performed which they came for, the murthering butcher haveing not strucke one stroake all day, but watching opportunity, and finding the company more scattered than at first from Jevan ap Robert, thrust himselfe among Jevan ap Robert's people behind, and, makeing a blow at him, was prevented by Robin ap Inko his foster-brother, and knocked downe; God bringing upon his head the destruction that he meant for another: which Howell ap Rys perceiving, cryed to his people, "Let us away and be gone, for I " had given chardge that Robin ap Inko should have been better " looked unto:" and soe that bickering brake with the hurt of many, and the death of that one man.

It fortun'd anon after, that the parson of Llanvrothen\* tooke a child of Jevan ap Robert's to foster, which sore grieved Howell Vaughan's wife, her husband haveing then more land in that parish than Jevan ap Robert had; in revenge whereof she plotted the death of the said parson in this manner. She sent a woman to aske lodgeing of the parson, who used not to deny any. The woman being in bed, after midnight began to strike and to rave; whereupon the parson, thinking that she had been distracted, awakeing out of his sleepe, and wondering at soe suddaine a crie in the night, made towards her and his household also; then she said that he would have ravished her, and soe got out of doores, threatening revenge to the parson. This woman had her bretheren three

\* Llanvrothen is a small village in Merionethshire, situate near Traethmawr sands.





notable rogues of the damn'd crew fit for any mischief, being followers of Howell ap Rys. In a morning these bretheren watched the parson, as he went to look for his cattle, in a place in that parish called Gogo yr Llechwin, being now a tenement of mine, and there murthered him; and two of them fled to Chirkeland in Denbighshire, to some of the Trevor's who were friends, or of a kinne to Howell ap Rys, or his wife. It was the manner in those dayes, that the murtherer onely, and he that gave the death's wound should flye, which was called in Welsh *llawrudd*, which is a *red hand*, because he had blouded his hand: the accessories and abettors to the murtherers were never hearkened after.

In those dayes, in Chirkeland and Oswaldstreland\*, two sects or kindred contended for the sovereignty of the countrie, and were at continuall strife one with another: the Kyffins and Trevors. They had their alliance, partisans, and friends in all the countreys round thereabouts, to whome, as the manner of the time was, they sent such of their followers as committed murther or manslaughter, which were safely kept as very precious jewells; and they received the like from their friends. These kind of people were stowed in the day time in chambers in their houses, and in the night they went to the next wine-house that belonged to the gentleman, or to his tenants houses not farre off, to make merrie and to wench. Meredith ap Howell ap Moris, in those days chief and leader of the sect of the Kyffins, was a kinne to Jevan ap Robert, and in league with him, to whome he sent to desire him to draw him a draught to

\* Now called Oswestry: it adjoins to Chirkeland, where the Trevors continue still to be a very considerable family.

catch those murtherers ; who sent him word, that he should come privately into Chirkeland only accompanied but with six, and he made no doubt to deliver the murtherers into his hands. As Jevan ap Robert was in his way going thither, passing by Ty yn Rhos\*, being a winehouse, standing in Penrhyn Deydraeth, Howell ap Rys ap Howell Vaughan's wife, being in the house, said to the people that were with her, Yonder goeth Jevan ap Robert, *Hwyr y dial ef ei dadmaeth*, which is as much as to say, "that he would not in haste be revenged of the wrong done to his foster." Being come to Chirkeland, he abode there many dayes in secret and un-seene, sleeping in the day and watching all night. In the end, with the helpe of his friends, he caught the two murtherers, whom he had no sooner in hand, but the crie did rise, *The Trevors to their friends, and the Kyffins to their leaders*. To the latter of these cries Meredith ap Howell ap Moris resorted, who told Jevan ap Robert that it was impossible for him to carry them out of the country to any place to have judicall proceeding against them, by reason that the faction of the Trevors would lay the way and narrow passages of the countrie ; and if they were brought to Chirke castle gate to receive the triall of the countrie lawes, it was lawfull for the offender's friends, whosoever they were, to bring £.5. for every man for a fine to the Lord, and to acquit them, soe it were not in cases of treason. A damnable custome used in those dayes in the lordships marches, which was used alsoe in Mowddwy\*, untill the new Ordinance of Wales, made in the seven and

\* Ty yn Rhos, [signifies the house in the rough common], opposite the lower ford of Traethmawr.

† Mowddwy is by that statute of Henry the Eighth now annexed to Merionethshire, whereas it was before part of Montgomeryshire.







twentieth yeare of Henry VIII. Hereupon Jevan ap Robert ap Meredith commanded one of his men to strike off their heads, which the fellow doeing faintly, the offender told him, that if he had his necke under his sword, he would make his sword take better edge than he did: soe resolute were they in those days, and in contempt of death; whereupon Jevan ap Robert in a rage stepping to them, stricke off their heads.

David Llwyd ap Gruffith Vychan, grandchild to Jevan ap Robert ap Meredith, in his youth waited upon Hugh, sonne to Mr. Robert ap Rys at Cambridge, elected Abbot of Conway by his father's procurement in his minoritie. He being at Plas Jolyn\*, at the house of Mr. Robert ap Rys, an old woman that dwelt there in Rys ap Meredith's time, told him that she had seene his grandfather Jevan ap Meredith at that house, both in goeing and coming from his voyage into Chirkeland, and that he was the tallest and goodliest man that ever she had seene; for, sitting at the fire, upon the spûr †, the hinder parte of his head was to be seene over the spûr, which she never saw to any other man. She alsoe said that in his returne from Chirkeland she saw Lowry, daughter of

\* Plas Jolyn is in Denbighshire, not far from Gelar and Voelas: it now belongs to Mr. Myddelton of Chirk Castle.

† Spûr (or, as it should seem to have been pronounced by the author, *Spere*) means that seat near a kitchen or hall fire, which generally goes by the name of a *Settle*. It is not very obvious however whence such a seat should have obtained the name of a *Spûr* or *Spere*. I find a passage in the Saxon Chronicle, which shews the word Spûr to be originally a term in that language, which Bishop Gibson renders scabellum. See the Chron. A. D. 1070. It appears from the context to have been a stool on which an image of CHRIST was represented to put his foot on.

"Rhowch y spâr ar ben y Spâr" is an adage, which seems to imply that the Spûr was a kind of a shelf used as a *Safe* to place a dish of spare meat upon, until further secured. The Spûr jutted out of the *patis* or wooden wall behind the Table in alto relievo. Few men standing could be as high as a Spûr. W. Davies.—P. E.

Howell, Rys ap Meredith's wife, his kinswoman, wash his eyes with white-wine, being bloudshot by long watching\*.

Jevan ap Robert in his returne from Chirkeland, riding home to his house by Gallt y Morfa-hir, by mooneshine, (the tide in Traeth mawr † giving him noe sooner passage), talking with his men carelesly, and out of danger, as he imagined, suddenly lighted an arrow shot amongst them from the hill side, which was then full of wood. On this they made a stand, and shot wholly all seven towards the place from whence the other arrow came, with one of which arrowes of theirs shot soe at randome they killed him that shot at them, being the third brother of the murtherers; God revenged that wicked murther by the death of every one of the three bretheren. Howell ap Rys ap Howell Vaughan, and especially his wife, boyling in revenge, drew another draught against Jevan ap Robert, in this manner. Jevan ap Robert's mother was of the house of Kefnmelgoed, in the countie of Cardigan, whose mother was sister to Rytherch ap Jevan Llwyd ‡, then and yet the greatest family in that countie §. It hath before been mentioned to have been customary in Chirkelande and other parts of Wales, for

\* It appears before that that Jevan had been obliged to watch for some time in Chirkland, sleeping in the day, and watching in the night, for the murtherers, &c. P.

† Traeth mawr signifies the *greater* tract of sand, to distinguish it from the *less*, which is the road from Penmorva in Carnarvonshire to Harlech in Merionethshire. These sands are not commonly passable till the tide hath ebbed nearly three hours.

‡ Pryse Pryse, Esq. M. P. is descended from Rhydderch ab Ieuan Llwyd, and inherits his estate and mansion of Cogerddan.—P. E.

§ "Who, as in Chirkeland and elsewhere, were wont to send unto him their Llawrhydd, where-  
"of there were very many, and his house continually full, which he kept very choicely." This I had from a MS. belonging to Richard Lloyd Williams, of Denbigh, which was written by Henry Bishop of Bangor, in 1699.—P. E.

*compare this  
to page 44.*



*There is an electrotype of the seal of the Earl of Tankerville,  
at Peniarth.*

the *Llawrudds*\* to resort to the most powerfull of the gentry, where they were kept very choisely. Howell ap Rys understanding that Jevan ap Robert and his people had occasion to goe to Carnarvon to the assises, thought it fit time by force to enter on his house; and to apprehend all those, and to bring them to Carnarvon to be hanged; for there was none of them but was outlawed of murther. To this end, to strengthen himselfe in this purpose, he sent for his trustiest friends about him, and among the rest procured David ap Jenkin, his cosen german, then a famous outlaw in the rocke of Carreg y Walch†, with his crew and followers to assist him, and suddenly came in a morning to the hall of Jevan ap Robert's house, where they were in out-houses about, and stowed in upper chambers in the lower end of the hall, and none to be seene. These people of Jevan ap Robert's that were in the hall raysed a crie, and betooke themselves to their weapons; whereupon the outlawes awaked, and betooke themselves to their weapons, and bestirred themselves handsomely. It happened the same time that Jevan ap Robert's wife stood at the fire side, looking on her mayd boyling of worte to make metheglyn, which seething worte was bestowed liberally among the assailants, and did helpe the defendants to thrust back them that were entered, and afterwards to defend the house. The house was assalted with all

\* The signification of the word *Llawrudd* hath before been explained by the author, and to import a red or bloody hand, or the murderer who had given the blow.

† There is a rock on the road from Shrewsbury to Oswestry, which is to this day called *Kynaston's Cae*, from its having been a receptacle to a robber of that name.—It is said to have been the fortress of "Cynast Wyllt," or "Humprey Cynaston the wild," ancestor to Syr Edward Kynaston, Bart. of Hardwick, Salop. Tales of this Cynaston are as numerous as those of Robin Hood, or Rob Roy: his mother was Antigony, dau: of Humfrey the great Duke of Gloucester.—P. E.

Humph: D. of Gloucester has been called "the good" but I never heard him designated as such.

Henry Grey Esq. of Antigny, see above. She was base dau: of the D. of Gloucester.

Janderville Esq. of Grey of Brix. ob.

No. 28. Hen: vi.

Elizabeth Grey = Sir Rob: Kynaston.

Humphrey Kynaston.

Mary Howell ap Jenkin ap Rys. dau: of the Llawrudds.

force, and pierced in diverse places, and was well defended by those that were within; for having made diverse breaches, they durst not enter, a few resolute men being able to make a breach good against many. Upon this the crie of the countrie did rise, and Jevan ap Robert's tenants and friends assembled in great numbers, (whereof Robin ap Inko was captaine), who fought with the besiegers, and in the end with their arrows did drive the besiegers from the one side of the house, who continually assaulted the other side. After they had continued all that day and all that night in that manner, the next morning, seeing they could prevaile little to enter the house, they came to a parley with Robin ap Inko, who advised them to be gone in time: "For," said he, "as soon as the water of Traeth mawr will give leave, Jevan Krach, my master's kinsman, will be here with Ardydwy men, and then you shall be all slaine." (This Jevan Krach was a man of greate account in those dayes, in Ardydwy\*, and dwelt at Kelli lydan, in the parish of Maentwrog). Whereupon they gave over their enterprise, and returned to Bron y foel, to Howell ap Rys ap Howell Vaughan's house, where David ap Jenkin advised his cosen Howell ap Rys to take Jevan ap Robert for his brother-in-law, neighbour, and friend: "For," said he, "I will not be one with you to assault his house when he is at home, seeing I find such hot resistance in his absence."

Dayly bickerings, too long to be written, passed betweene soe neare and hateful neighbours. In the end the plague, which

\* Ardydwy is a district in the north-western part of Merionethshire. Maentwrog is also a parish of the same county, not far distant from Ardydwy; it adjoins to Llanwrthelan, the parish of which the author hath before had occasion to mention







commonly followeth warre and desolation, after the Earle of Pembroke's expedition, tooke away Jevan ap Robert, at his house in Keselgyfarch; in the flowers of his age, being thirty-one years of age; whose death ended the strife of those houses; for his three eldest sonnes were sister's sonnes to Howell ap Rys ap Howell Vaughan.

Enmitie did continue betweene Howell ap Rys ap Howell Vaughan, and the sonnes of John ap Meredith. After the death of Jevan ap Robert, Gruffith ap John ap Gronw, (cozen german to John ap Meredith's sonnes, of Gwynfryn), who had long served in France, and had charge there, comeing home to live in the countrey, it happened that a servant of his comeing to fish in Stymillyn\*, his fish was taken away, and the fellow beaten by Howell ap Rys his servants, and by his commandment. Gruffith ap John ap Gronw tooke the matter in such dudgeon, that he challenged Howell ap Rys to the field; which he refusing, and assembling his cosens John ap Meredith's sonnes and his friends together, assaulted Howell in his owne house, after the manner he had seene in the French warres, and consumed with fire his barnes and his out-houses. Whilst he was afterwards assaulting the hall, which Howell ap Rys and many other people kept, being a very strong house, he was shot out of a crevice of the house, through the sight of his beaver, into the head, and slayne out-right, being otherwise armed at all points. Notwithstanding his death, the assault of the house was continued with great vehemence, the doores fired

\* He appears from a Schedule of the family deeds at Portington, to have been living in 1441.

\* Stymillyn is on the Carnarvonshire coast, not far from Creklieth. There is a pretty large pool of water near the sea, where there are some good trouts, and in which this fishing probably happened.

with great burthens of straw; besides this, the smoake of the out-houses and barnes not farre distant, annoyed greatly the defendants, soe that most of them lay under boordes and benches upon the floore in the hall, the better to avoyd the smoake. During this scene of confusion, onely the old man Howell ap Rys never stooped, but stood valiantly in the midst of the floore, armed with a *gleve*\* in his hand, and called unto them, and bid them "arise like men, for shame, for he had knowne there as greate a smoake in that hall upon a Christmas even." In the end, seeing the house could noe longer defend them, being overlayed with a multitude, upon parley betweene them, Howell ap Rys was content to yeald himselfe prisoner to Morris ap John ap Meredith, John ap Meredith's eldest sonne, soe as he would sweare unto him to bring him safe to Carnarvon castle, to abide the triall of the law for the death of Gruff' ap John ap Gronw, who was cosen german removed, to the said Howell ap Rys, and of the very same house he was of. Which Morris ap John ap Meredith undertakeing, did put a guard about the said Howell of his trustiest friends and servants, who kept and defended him from the rage of the kindred, and especially of† Owen ap John ap Meredith his brother, who was very eager against him. They passed by leisure thence, *like a camp*‡, to Carnarvon; the whole company being assembled, Howel's friends posted a horse-backe from one place or other by the way, who brought word that he was come thither safe, for they were in great fear lest he should be murthered, and that Morris ap John ap

\* *Gleve* signifies a sword, from the French *Glaive*.

† "From." Ruthyn MS.—P. E.

‡ i. e. Like an army, which makes regular encampments during their march.





Meredith could not be able to defend him, neither durst any of Howell's friends be there for feare of the kindred. In the end, being delivered by Morris ap John ap Meredith to the constable of Carnarvon-castle, and there kept safely in ward untill the assises: it fell out by law, that the burning of Howell's houses and assaulting him in his owne house, was a more haynous offence in Morris ap John ap Meredith and the rest, than the death of Gruff ap John ap Gronw in Howell ap Rys, who did it in his owne defence; whereupon, Morris ap John ap Meredith, with thirty-five more, were indicted of felonie, as appeareth by the copie of the indictment, which I had from the records.

Howell, delivered out of prison, never durst come to his owne house in Evioneth, but came to Penmachno\*, to his mother's kindred, Rys Gethin's† sonnes, and there died. It is a note worthy observation that the house by little and little decayed ever since, neither hath any of his posterity beene buried in his owne sepulchre, being four descents besides himselfe.

Rys ap Howell ap Rys his sonne, cosen german to my greate grandfather Meredith ap Jevan ap Robert, married to his first wife, an inheretrix of the Trevors, by whome he had greate possessions in Hopesland‡. He afterwards, by the procurement of my great-grandfather, married Margaret, daughter of Hugh Conwey the elder, Reinalt ap Meiricke's widdow, his next neighbour in Gwedir, and was overseer of his workes when he built Gwedir-house, as William

\* Penmachno is a small village in Carnarvonshire, on the road between Llanrwst and Festiniog.

† Rhys Gethin, a great warrior sided with Owain Glyndwr.—P. E.

‡ Hopesland is a part of Flintshire, situated in the hundred of Rhew.

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+ His Grandfather Gz: ap dtd Goch was living when the Extent of North Wales was taken A.<sup>o</sup> xxvi. 43.

⊕ Ellis ap Moris ap John ap Meredith was living when Leland travelled through Wales. Leland's tour of England was commenced in 1538, & it is probable that he passed thro' Wales some short time afterwards.

David ap Ellis Eytyn\* his cosen, who lived with him in those dayes, told me. He was buried on the right side in the chancel in Llanrwst; and was taken up at the burying of Cadwalader ap Robert Wynne of Havod y maidd†, as my uncle Owen Wynne guessed by the greatness of the same.

Thomas ap Rys ap Howell sold all his mother's lands and *liveing* in Hopesland, and a great part of his owne, and was buried in Hopesdale.

Cadwalader ap Thomas, his son and heire, lying at Chester, died there.

Ellis ap Cadwalader, (who had married my cosen german, my uncle Owen Wynne's daughter), my kind cosen and friend, a man endued with many good parts, being sicke of an impostume, went to one Dr. Davies‡ neare Brecknock, and there died. This man's name I am bound to make an honourable mention of, for diverse kindnesses he shewed unto me, and especially for the wise advice and counsell he was wont to give me. Among many, one especially is by me and my posterity to be remembred, which I doe thinke worthy to be recorded in writeing. Unkindness and variance befalling betweene myselfe and my uncle Owen Wynne, being neighbours, for wayes crosse my ground for the carrying of his hay from the King's meadow in Trefriw to his house at Caermelwr, I grew to a great heat, and said that he should not passe that way with-

\* Dd. ab Elis Eytyn of Watstai, now called Wynstay.—P. E.

† Havod y maidd is a farm in Denbighshire, not far from Caerydrydion, it signifies the *whey* farm.

‡ Evan Evans told me, that the Dr. Davies here mentioned was no other than the famous Sion Dafydd Rhys. J. Ll. See p. x.—P. E.







out the losse of mens lives. Whereupon, he being present, and wishing well unto us both, reprov'd me sharply, wishing me to follow the course of my ancestors, who with wisdom, unanimity, and temperance, from time to time, had rais'd their fortunes; assuring me his ancestors might be an example unto me of the contrary, who with headiness and rashness did diminish and impair their estates from time to time. Which counsel of his tooke deepe roote in me ever after, and, to my great good, I bridled my choller, whereunto I was much subject.

Owen Ellis, the sonne of Ellis Cadwalader, died by a fall from his horse goeing home from Crikeith in the night, haveing beene there all the day drinking. *in 1622.*

Ellis Ellis, his sonne, fell mad, and continued soe a long time, and at length *in that case\** died *in 1631.*

Owen Ellis, his sonne, being a young man, newly married, going home in the night, betweene Nanhoren and Vaerdre, in Llôn †, where his wife lived, haveing by her one daughter, and leaveing her great with child, (which after proved to be a sonne), by a fall from his horse, upon the way, died.

These three were buried in their owne sepulchres in the Church of St. Katherine's in Crikeith, after this booke was by the author written.

It may be a question here, and a doubt to the reader, wherefore the land of Robin Vaughan ap David ap Howell should descend to Jevan ap Robert ap Meredith, his cosen and next heire, he have-

\* This is a singular method of expressing himself, which the author frequently uses.

† Llôn is the S. Western peninsula of Carnarvonshire.

ing a daughter and heire of his owne body lawfully begotten? To answer this question, you are to understand that Henry Lacie, Earle of Lincolne, upon the conquest of Wales, haveing received of Edward the First his gift the countries of Ros and Roroniog, now Denbigh land, and planted the same with diverse Englishmen, who held their lands, as well as their posteritie, by the English tenure; the rest of the Welshmen, loaded with many bad customes, held their lands in the Welsh tenure. One condition thereof was, that the inheritance should not descend to daughters, but should goe to the heire male of the house, if there were any such within *their*\* degrees to the dead man, and if not, that it should escheate to the Lord of the soyle; yet in respect of the possibilitie of issue male, which the owner of the land might have while he was alive, the custome of the countrie did permit him to mortgage the land to serve his need, without the Lord's leave. You see hereby that Robin Vaughan did what he could, according to the custome of the countrie, towards the preferment of his daughter, and the reason why Jevan ap Meredith, his next kinsman and heire, had the lands. Which proveth alsoe that Robert ap Meredith was eldest brother to Jevan ap Meredith, John ap Meredith's grand father, which his posteritie greatly gainsaid †; for if Jevan ap Meredith had been elder brother, then John ap Meredith should have inherited this land, and not Jevan ap Robert his father's cosen.

Meredith, sonne to Jevan ap Robert his eldest sonne, in the time of his father, was taken to nurse by an honest freeholder in

\* Three, perhaps.

"Three." Bala MS.—P. E.

† This is a repetition of what hath been mentioned before.



the hundred of Yscorum Isgurvai\*, who was owner of the Creig-iaw in Llanvaire, and the best man in the parish, and haveing noe children of his owne, gave his inheritanee to his foster-child. Creige standeth some sixteen miles from Keselgyfarch, whereby it may appeare how desirous men were in those dayes to have a patron that could defend them from wrong, though they sought him never soe far off. Creige† standeth betweene Carnarvon and Bangor, two miles off from Carnarvon. In those days Carnarvon flourished as well by trade of merchandise as alsoe for that the King's exchequer, chauncery, and common law courts for all North Wales were there continually residing, whilst the way to London and the marches was little frequented. By this, civility and learning flourished in that towne, soe as they were called, *the lawyers of Carnarvon, the merchands of Beaumares, and the gentlemen of Conway*. I heard diverse of judgement, and learned in the lawes, to report that the records of the King's Courtes, kept in Carnarvon in those dayes, were as orderly and formally kept as those in Westminster. Thither did his foster-father send my greate grandfather to school, where he learned the English tongue, to read, to write, and to understand Latine, a matter of great moment in those dayes. For his other brethren loseing their father young, and nursed in Evioneth, neare their father's house, wanted all this; soe as to the honest man, his foster and second father, (for he gave him with breeding alsoe his inheritance), may be attributed his

\* In Carnarvonshire.

† Crôg, in Llanfair parish.—P. E.

good fortune, (God's providence always excepted), which sometimes worketh by secondary meanes, whereof this man was the instrument. Haveing lived there till the age of twenty yeares, or thereabouts, his foster-father being dead, he fell in liking with a young woman in that towne, who was daughter-in-law to one Spicer, the reputed daughter of William Gruffith ap Robin, sheriffe of the county of Carnarvon. This Spicer was a landed man of £.50. per annum, which descended to him from his ancestors, yet had an office in the exchequer\*, and dealt with trade of merchandise alsoe, that he became a great and wealthy man. His sonne, †John Spicer, was a justice of the peace in the first commissions after the new ordinance of Wales, and was brother by the mother to Alice vch William, the wife of Meredith ap Jevan ap Robert. Their mother is said to be of the Bangors, whome I have knowne often to have claymed kindred of me by that woman. At Creig he began the worlde with his wife, and begate there by her two daughters, Jonett, the first, married to Edmund Gruffith, and afterwards to Sir John Puleston; and another called Catherine, married to Rowland Gruffith of Plasnewydd †. After this, finding he was likely to have more children, and that the place would prove narrow and straight for him, he was minded to have returned to his inheritance in Evioneth, where there was nothing but killing and fighting, whereupon he did purchase a lease of the castle and

\* The author means the Exchequer for the Principality, then kept at Carnarvon.

† Plas newydd signifies *the new Mansion or Gentleman's house*; the name is therefore very common in Wales, and it is difficult to determine what Plas newydd the author alludes to. It should seem that our modern expression of a *Gentleman's Place* is taken from this Welsh term.

See *Mona Antiqua*, where this Rowland Gruffydd is included in the list of members of Parliament, W. D.—P. E.





frithes \* of Dolwyddelan, of the executors of Sir Ralph Berkinnet. I find in the records of the Exchequer of Carnarvon, the transcript of an act of resumption enrowled, made in the third yeare of king Henry the Seventh, by which act all king Richard's gifts are resumed, excepting one lease of the frith of Dolwyddelan, granted to Sir Ralph Berkinnet of the countie of Chester, knight, Chamberlaine of North Wales. Haveing purchased this lease, he removed his dwelling to the castle of Dolwyddelan, which at that time was in part thereof habitable, where one Howel ap Jevan ap Rys Gethin, in the begining of Edward the Fourth his raigue, capitaine of the countrey and an outlaw, had dwelt. Against this man David ap Jenkin rose, and contended with him for the sovraignety of the countrey; and being superiour to him, in the end he drew a draught for him, and took him in his bed at Penannmen with his concubine, performing by craft, what he could not by force, and brought him to Conway castle. Thus, after many bickerings betweene Howell and David ap Jenkin, he being too weake, was faine to flie the countrey, and to goe to Ireland, where he was a yeare or thereabouts. In the end he returned in the summer time, haveing himselfe, and all his followers clad in greene †, who, being come into the countrey, he dispersed here and there among his

\* Frith is a very common term in Wales, and signifies generally a small field taken out of a common. There is a market town in Derbyshire called *Chapel in the Frith*, which is situated in a valley amongst such inclosures. The term of *frith* is originally Saxon, hence *deorfrid* signifies a forest with its bounds. Chron. Sax. A. D. 1086.

† The tradition is well known, that Robin Hood, and the outlaws his followers, were clad in the same livery. As they generally lived in forests, perhaps it might be conceived that they were less distinguishable when dressed in this colour.

Holingshed, in his description of Ireland, p. 12, gives an account of Robin Hood and little John; he says they lived about the year 1189.—P. E.



friends, lurking by day, and walkeing in the night, for feare of his adversaries ; and such of the countrey as happened to have a sight of him and his followers, said they were the fairies\*, and soe ran away. All the whole countrey then was but a forest, rough and spacious, as it is still, but then waste of inhabitants, and all overgrowne with woods ; for Owen Glyndwr's warres beginning in 1400, continued fifteen yeares, which brought such a desolation that greene grasse grew on the market place in Llanrwst, called Bryn y botten, and the deere fled † into the church-yard, as it is reported. This desolation arose from Owen Glyndwr's policie, to bring all things to waste, that the English should find no strength, nor resting place. The countrey being brought to such a desolation, could not be replanted in haste ; and the warres of York and Lancaster happening some fifteen yeares after, this countrey being the chiefest fastness of North Wales, was kept by David ap Jenkin, a captaine of the Lancastrian faction, fifteen yeares in Edward the Fourth his time, who sent diverse captaines to besiege him, who wasted the countrey while he kept his rocke at Carreg y Walch ; and, lastly, by the Earle Herbert, who brought it to utter desolation. Now you are to understand, that in those dayes, the countrey of Nantconway was not onely wooded, but alsoe all Carnarvon, Merioneth, and Denbigh shires seemed to be but one forest haveing few inhabitants, though of all others Nantconway had the fewest, being the worst then, and the seat of the warres, to whome the countrey about paid contribution. From the towne of

\* See p. 202 of Peter Roberts's "Popular Antiquities."—P. E.

† "Fed in the church-yard of Llanrwst." Bala MS.—P. E.





Conway to Bala, and from Nantconway to Denbigh\*, (when warres did happen to cease in Hiraethog, the countrey adjoining Nantconway), there was continually fostered a wasp's nest, which troubled the whole countrey, I mean a lordship belonging to St: Johns of Jerusalem, called Spytty Jevan, a large thing, which had privilege of sanctuary. This peculiar jurisdiction, not governed by the King's lawes, became a receptacle of thieves and murtherers, who safely being warranted there by law, made the place thoroughly peopled. Noe spot within twenty miles was safe from their incursions and robberies, and what they got within their limits was their owne. They had to their backstay friends and receptors in all the county of Merioneth and Powisland†. These helping the former desolations of Nantconway, and preying upon that countrey, as their next neighbours, kept most part of that countrey all waste and without inhabitants. In this estate stood the hundred of Nantconway, when Meredith removed his dwelling thither, being (as I guesse) about the four and twentieth yeare of his age, and in the beginning of king Henry the Seventh his time. Being questioned by his friends, why he meant to leave his ancient house and habitation, and to dwell in Nantconway‡, swarming with thieves and bondmen, whereof there are many in the kinge's lordship and

\* All this tract of country is mountainous, though not very rocky; it may therefore have been formerly covered with wood according to this account, though there is at present little or none to be seen.

† Powisland formerly included a large district of countrey, chiefly Montgomeryshire. The *Reguli* of this part of North Wales are said to have been buried at Myford in that county, which is situated on the river Vurnwy.

‡ Nantconway signifies the valley situated on the Conway.

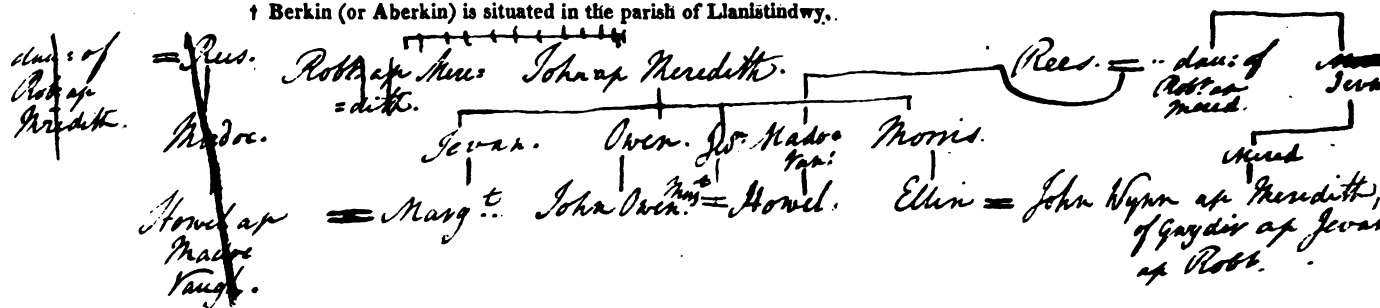
townes in that hundred; he answered, "that he should find elbowe  
 " roome in that vast countrey among the bondmen, and that he  
 " had rather fight with outlawes and thieves, than with his owne  
 " blood and kindred; for if I live in mine own house in Evioneth\*,  
 " I must either kill mine owne kinsmen or be killed by them."  
 Wherein he said very truly, as the people were such in those dayes  
 there; for John Owen ap John ap Meredith, in his father's time, kil-  
 led Howell ap Madoc Vaughan of Berkin, for noe other quarrell;  
 but for the mastery of the countrey, and for the first good-morrow;  
 in which tragedie Meredith had likely beene an actor, if he lived  
 there, for the reasons aforesaid. He and his cosen the heir of Brom  
 y foel, were both out of the countrey, Morys ap John ap Meredith  
 and Owen ap John ap Meredith were alsoe growne old men, soe  
 as there was none in the countrey that durst strive with John Owen  
 ap John ap Meredith, but Howell ap Madoc Vaughan of Berkin†,  
 which cost him his life.

*From a Deed in  
 my possession it  
 appears that Howell  
 ap Madoc Vaughan  
 was living A.D.  
 Hen. VIII.*

Howell ap Madog Vaughan his grand mother, was Jevan ap  
 Robert ap Meredith his sister, soe he was cosen german's sonne to  
 Meredith. John Owen that killed him was cosen german to my  
 grandmother, being the daughter of Morris ap John ap Meredith.  
 In respect of the feude of my grandfather, he could not abide any  
 descended of Owen ap John ap Meredith, neither could she abide  
 any of his kindred of Berkin. I write it but to shew the manifold  
 divisions in those dayes among soe private friends.

\* Evioneth is a hundred in the S. Western part of Carnarvonshire: it is supposed to have ob-  
 tained this name from its being watered by a great number of small rivers. The same etymology  
 is given by Leland to the province of Aquitaine in France.

† Berkin (or Aberkin) is situated in the parish of Llanistindwy.







Howell ap Madog Vaughan haveing most valiantly fought out with his people, received his deadly wound in the head. Being downe, his mother being present, clapped her hand on his head, meaning to ward the strocke, and had halfe her hand and three of her fingers cut off at the blowe.

David Llwyd ab Gruffith Vychau, my uncle, told me, that his father, dwelling at Cumstrallyn in Evioneth, hearing of the affray, but not of his cosen's death, (for Howell ap Madog Vychan out-lived the fray certaine dayes), sent him, being a child, to see how his cosen did; and he coming to Berkin found him layed in his bed, and his wounded men in great number lying in a *cocherie*\*, above the degree near the high table, all in breadth of his hall, all gored and wallowing in their owne blood. He likewise saw the gentleman's milch kine brought to the hall doore, and their milk carried hot from the kine, to the wounded men, by them to be druncke for the restoring of their blood.

Howell Vaughan, upon his death-bed, did say, "that this quarrell should never be ended while his mother lived; and looked upon her hand." Which was true indeed; for she persecuted eagerly all her time, and John Owen was kept in prison seven years in Carnarvon castle, for soe long she survived her sonne, and his life was saved with much ado. After her death the feude was *compounded* for †.

\* This term seems to be derived from an old French word *coucherie*; it may therefore signify a long boarded bed, placed with a proper inclination from the side of the room, which was the common dormitory of the servants. A shelf of boards thus disposed might answer the purpose of what in England was formerly called a *pallet*, and slanting shelves of this sort are sometimes used in barracks for the soldiers to sleep upon. As for what is mentioned of its being *above the degree near the high table*, it is well known that the principal table in an ancient hall is always raised a step or two, as it continues to be in most colleges.

† Such compositions were common in Wales before the statutes of Henry the Eighth.



John Owen and his followers were exceedingly sore hurt in that bickering; soe that returning to his father's house from the fray, and his aged father sitting or walking before the doore of his house, and seeing his son and his company all hacked, wounded, and be-smeared with their owne blood, he said unto them, *Drug yw'r drefn yma. A unaethoch chwi eich gweth* \*? which is as much as to say, "You are in an ill-favoured pickle. Have you done no-thing worthy yourselves?" "I †," said the sonne, "I fear me we have done too much." "If that be soe," said Owen ap John ap Meredith, "I was this morning the best man in my countrey," meaning Evioneth, "but now I know not who is."

You are to understand, that in Evioneth of old there were two sects or kindred, the one lineally descended of Owen Gwynedd, Prince of Wales, consisting then and now of four houses, viz. Keselgyfarch, y Llys ynghefn y fann, now called Ystynkegid, Clenenny, and Bryn kir, Glasfrin or Cwmstrallyn; the other sect descended of Collwyn, whereof are five houses or more; viz. Whelog, Bron y foel, Berkin, Gwnfryn, Talheubont, and the house of Hugh Gwyn ap John Wynne ap Williams, called Pennardd, all descended of their common ancestor, Jevan ap Einion ap Gruffith. His brother was Howell ap Einion ap Gruffith, that worthy gentleman called Sir Howell y fwyall ‡, who behaved himselfe so worthily at the field of Poitiers §, (where John the French King was taken

\* Gwaith, "work."—P. E.

† I is probably used here for ay, as it is throughout the folio editions of Shakspeare. P.

‡ i. e. The axe.

§ This circumstance hath been before mentioned by the author. See p. 88.

\* The Heiress of Ystymcegid—Cathar: daughter of Robert Owen, Esq.<sup>re</sup> (the last male heir of that house) married Robert Hyane, of Glynn in the County of Merioneth, Esq. who was living in 1658. She died in 1675.





by the Blacke Prince), that he received of the Prince in guift the constableness of Criketh castle, and other great things in North Wales, alsoe the rent of Dee milles in Chester ; and, what was more, a messe of meat to be served before his battle-axe or partisan forever, in perpetual memory of his good service\*. This messe of meate was afterwards carried downe to be given to the poore†, and had eight yeomen attendants found at the King's charge, which were afterwards called yeomen of the Crowne ; who had 8d. a day, and lasted till the beginning of Queen Elizabeth's time. Sergeant Roberts of Havod y bwch, neare Wrexham, was, at his beginning, yeoman of the crowne. He married Sir William Gerard's half-sister by the mother, as did Robert Turbridge of Caervallen, neare Ruthyn, Esq. another : to whom he told, " that being yeoman of " the crowne, he had heard it by tradition in the King's house, that " the beginning of their order was upon the occasion as is afore " remembred." This did Robert Turbridge relate unto me, upon the creditte of the other man. The countrey people, grounding upon the songes, which say, " that he bridled the French King," will have it, that he took the French King prisoner : a matter unlikely, as the one served on foot, and the King on horseback ‡. But the foot captaine is a brasen wall of the army, and may be said truely to winne the field.

\* Our author here repeats what hath before been stated, of which there are some other instances when the matter was particulary interesting.

† " For his soul's health." Bala MS.—P. E.

‡ Notwithstanding the author's doubts with regard to this tradition, it seems scarcely to admit of a cavil, as such an extraordinary and expensive establishment could not have been granted by the crown, but for most meritorious services. As for the impossibility relied upon, that a soldier

After Meredith\* had lived certaine yeares at Dolwyddelan castle, he builded the house in Penanmen, being the principal best ground

on foot could not take the French King on horseback, this circumstance is most fully accounted for by a MS. given to the Lord Treasurer Oxford by Mr Hugh Thomas, and now deposited in the British Museum.

— " Sir Howell y Fywall, ab Einion. ap Gruffith, ap Howell, ap Meredith, ap Einion, ap Gwgan, ap Meredith Goch, ap Cothwyn, (Collwyn), ap Tangvo, called Sir *Howell y Fywall*, or *Sir Howell Pole Axe*, from his constant fighting with that warlike instrument.—It is said he *mounted the French King, cutting off his horse's head* at one blow with his battle axe, and took the French King prisoner; as a trophy of which victory it is said that he bore the arms of France, *with a battle axe in bend sinister, argent.*" Harl. MS. No. 2298. p. 348.—the reference in the printed catalogue to p. 21. of this number being inaccurate.

The conqueror anciently had a right to quarter the arms of his prisoner. This appears by a treatise on heraldry, printed by Wynken de Worde, without date, in which there is the following passage: " We have armys by our meryts, as very playnly it appearth by the addycyon of the arms of Fraunce to those of Englonde after the taking of K. John of Fraunce in the battayle of Poyctiers, the which certayn addition was lawfull and ryght, and wyselye done. And on the same manner of wyce a poor archer might have taken a prynce or noble lord, and so the arms of that prisoner he may put to him and his heys." Book of St Albans, by dame Julian Bernes.

The author seems also to have forgotten some Welsh verses which are inserted in the margin of the MS. commemorating the grant of the mess of meat to be served at Sir Howell's table, whilst the battle axe followed.

Seigr fy feiger wyall, doeth honn garr bron y brenin,  
Gwedyr maes gwaed ar y min; i dysaig ai dewiswr,  
Ai diod oedd waed a dwr.

Kowydd<sup>a</sup> i Jevan ap Meredith O Ceselgyfarch.  
Howell ap Reignalt ai cant. (Flourished from 1460 to 1490.—P. E.)

" Place on the table my *feiger*, (bearing the axe which came from the presence of the king, with blood on its edge), the two dishes which I have chosen. The drink must be blood and water.  
" The poem in praise of Jevan ap Meredith of Ceselgyfarch, by Howell ap Reignalt the Bard."

\* I find that the aforesaid Meredydd Wynn ab Iefan ab Rhobert went twice to Rome; and that at his death, by his will, dated the fourth of March, 1525, he left his Estate to certain trustees, to be divided amongst his four sons, viz. John Wynn, Rhys Wynn, Humphrey Wynn, and Cadwalader Wynn. To John Wynn he gave Gwydyr, and his lands in Nantconwy, Dolwyddelan, and Llanfrothen. (Rhys Wynn dyed before the partition.) To Humphrey he left Cassailgyfarch, &c.

<sup>a</sup> Towydd, or distich, (Cowydd, a short poem), was insterted in the margin by a different hand from that of the copier: it is said to be very incorrect, and consequently not perfectly intelligible. The above translation is supposed to be nearly the sense of it.

A fragment cannot be easily made out without the whole poem. The Bard lived about 100 years after the battle of Poitiers, which was fought September 19, 1356. W. D.—P. E.





in Dolwyddelan; and also within certaine yeares after, he removed the church of Dolwyddelan from a place called Brin y bedd, to the

and to Cadwalader Wynn he gave Wenallt, who was several times Member of Parliament. Meredydd ab Iefan ab Rhobert, after he had done great service to his King, abroad in his wars, in France, where he was a considerable commander, at the siege of Tournay, and at home in extirpating of outlaws and banditti, which infested Wales, and were called *Herwyr* and *Gwyllid*, and thereby had contributed very much to the civilizing and quieting this country,—purchased the seat of Gwydyr from Dafydd ab Howell Coytmor, (a descendant from Iarddur of Llechwedd) and began to build the lower house: he finished that part which is called *Nenadd* *Fredydd*, (or the Hall of Meredydd), and the adjacent lodgeing; and then, leaving his paternal seat of *Cessailgyfarch*, and also his other house of *Panammen*, he removed and settled at Gwydyr, where, in peace and honour, he departed this life, on the eighteenth day of March, 1525, aged about sixty-five, and was interred at the church which he himself had built at Dolwyddelan, leaving behind him a very numerous issue, that is to say, By his first wife, *Alis* vch *William Gryffydd* ab *Robin* o *Gochwillian*, he had *Sion* Wynn 2 ab *Mered.* of Gwydyr, who married *Elin* the daughter of *Mawris* *Sion* ab *Meredydd* o *Rhiwaedog*: *Rhys* Wynn 3 ab *Mered.* was never married. He had also by *Alis* two other sons, *William* 1 ab *Mered.* and *Rhydderch* 4 ab *Mered.* but both died before their father, sans issue. His daughters by her were these:—

*Sionet* 1 vch *Mered*—*Edmund* Gryffydd of *Caerarfon*: 2dly, *Syr* *John* *Pulston*, Knight.

*Marget* 2 vch *Mered.* three times,—*Rhys* ab *Dafydd* ab *Gwyllym* o *Llwydiarth*,  
—*Evan* ab *Sion* ab *Meredydd* o *Bryncir*,  
—*Rhobert* *Vaughn* o *Bronhaulog*. O. S. P.

*Catrin* *Llwyd* 3 vch *Mered*—*Rowland* Gryffydd o *Plasnewydd* yn *Môn*.

*Catrin* *Gwynlon* 4 vch *Mered*—*Lewis* ab *Ief.* ab *Dd.* o *Pengwern* yn *Ffestiniog*.

*Lowri* 6 vch *Mered*—*Rhydderch* ab *Dd.* ab *Mered.* o *Bala*, ancestor o *Lewis* *Gwynn* of *Bala*, and alsoe of *Brigadier* *James* *Wynn*.

*Marsi* 6 vch *Mered*—*Tomos* *Gruff.* *Siencin* o *Coed* y *Rhygyn* yn *Trawsfynydd*, and also of *Clynnog* *fawr* yn *Arfon*.

By his second wife *Gwenhwyfar* vch *Gruff.* ab *Howell* y *farf* o *Treiorwerth* yn *Mon*, and relict of *Robert* Gryffydd of *Plasnewydd*, Meredydd had issue as followeth:—

*Elin* 7 vch *Mered.* died unmarried.

*Elisbeth* 8 vch *Mered*—*Sion* ab *Rhob.* ab *Lln.* ap *Morgan* o'r *Penllech*.

By his third wife *Marget* vch *Morus* *Sion* ab *Meredydd* o *Rhiwaedog*, Meredydd had issue,—*Humffrey* ab *Mered.* on whom he settled *Cessailgyfarch*, and most of his lands in *Evionydd*, and who married *Catrin*, da. and heir of *Iefan* Gryffydd ab *Meredydd* ab *Gwylim* *Powik* o *Cwmbowys* yn *Ffestiniog*. \* *Cadwalader* ab *Mered.* to whom he gave *Wenallt* in *Wanhwyne*, and the rest of his lands in *Evionydd*: he—*Sionet* vch *Tomos* ab *Morus* ab *Gryffydd* ab *Iefan* o'r *Plasdu*.

The daughters of Meredydd by his third wife were these:—

*Elin* 9 vch *Mered*—*Edd.* *Stanlai*, constable of *Harddlech* castell.

*Sian* 10 vch *Mer.*—*Cadwalader* *Prys* o *Rhiwlas*.

*Agnes* 11 vch *Mer.*—*Rhobert* ab *Rhys* *Wym* *Salsburi*.

*Alis* 12—*Tomos* ab *Rhys* *Benned* o *Bodlewyddan*.

*Gwen* 14 vch *Mer.*—*Owen* ab *Reynallt* o *Glynn* *Lllgwy*.

\* In the marriage settlement of *Robert* *Wynn* of *Glyn* in the  
Harshe d. of this (Edw.), his widow to *Edith* of *Wanhwyne* *Nanhyne*  
*Nanhyne*.

*Nanhyne*



place where now it is, being parte of the possessions of the priory of Bethkelert. He also there new-built the same as it is now, one crosse chapell excepted, which my uncle Robert Wynne built. It should seeme, by the glasse window there, that it was built in anno 1512; but whether it was in that yeare glazed, (which might be done long after the building of the church), I am uncertaine. The church, which is very strongly built, the castle, and his house of Penanmen stand three square, like a trivett, either a mile distant from each other. Questioning with my uncle, what should move him to demolish the old church, which stood in a thickett, and build it in a plaine, stronger and greater than it was before: his answer was, he had reason for the same, because the countrey was wild, and he might be oppressed by his enemies on the suddaine, in that woodie countrey; it therefore stood him in a policie to have diverse places of retreat. Certaine it was, that he durst not goe to church on a Snnday from his house in Penanmen, but he must leave the same guarded with men, and have the doores sure barred and

Marget 15 vch —Sion Gryff. o Crichley 3 ab Syr Will. Gryff. o'r Penrhyn.

Eurlliw 16 vch Mer —Sion Hooks o Conwy.

Besides these 20 children by his wives, Meredydd had the following by diverse women:—by Sionet vch Siencin Gryffydd Vychan he had Syr Robert, a Priest; 2d, Sion Coytmor, from whom descend Syr Edmund Williams, Bart. Syr John Williams of the Isle of Thanet, and Syr Morris Williams, Knight; and third, Catrin vch Mer.—Sion Dd. o Tregaran, father of Tomos Jones, commonly called Twm Sion Cathe, (a great antiquary). And by Catrin vch Sion ab Heilyn o Benmachno, Meredydd had Evan and Huw, (who had issue Rhobert ab Huw, and Reinallt ab Huw of Flintshire). Meredydd had also by a dau. of Howell ab Rhys ab ———, Lewis, and Marget veh Mer.—Dafydd Owen, A. M. father of Morris Cyffin, consecrated Bish. of St. Asaph, 1603. And, lastly, by Gwenllian vch Gwylm ab Evan Llwyd, he had Catrin vch Mer. who—William ab Tomas Gronwy, by whom she had Syr Tomas ab William the famous physick, to Qu. Eliz. that made the Welsh Dictionary, and in whose MS. of Achau I found this hanes of Meredydd's children by his three wives, which agreeth with a catalogue of them in Lewis Dwn visitation MS. signed and attested by Owen Wynn of Caermelwr 4 ab Sion Wynn ab Mered. and grandson to Meredydd; dated the 14 of June, 1588. H. Bangor, October 18, 1699, 1700.—P. E.









boulded, and a watchman to stand at the Garreg big, during divine service; being a rock whence he might see both the church and the house, and raise the crie, if the house was assaulted. He durst not, although he were guarded with twenty tall\* archers, make knowne when he went to church or elsewhere, or goe or come the same way through the woodes and narrowe places, lest he should be layed for: this was in the beginning of his time. To strengthen himselfe in the countrey, he provided out of all parts adjacent, the tallest and most able men he could hear of. Of these he placed colonics in the countrey, filling every empty tenement with a tenant or two, whereof most was on the King's lands: Many of the posteritie of these tenants remaine untill this day. One William ap Robert of Iscorum, being one of his followers, he placed in a tenement of the Townshippe of Gwedir, called Pencraig Inko, now worth £.30. per annum, who paid for the same onely a reliefe to the King or lord, which was 10s. 4d.

Such were the lawes in those days, and are still, that if the King's tenant holding in freehold, or freeholder holding under any other Lord, did cease for two years to do his service to the King or Lord, the said may re-enter. The writte is called *Cessavit per biennium*; the exactions were, in those dayes, soe manifold, that not onely the bondmen ranne away and forsooke the King's land, but alsoe freeholders their owne land.

Here to lay downe in particular the Welsh customes would make the volume too great.

Owen ap Hugh ap Jevan ap William, great grandchild to the

\* Tall at this time often signifies stout, and is used by Shakspeare in that sense. P.

said William, enjoyeth the land to this day ; though in my grandfather's time it was in sute, by the contrivance of John ap Madog ap Heshell, (Howell), but it is now recovered by the meanes of my grandfather. Einion ap Gruffith ap Jockes, a freeholder of Festiniog and Llanvrothen, he placed in the King's frith at Bryntirch, of whom are descended many in Nantconway, Festiniog, and Llanvrothen. Howell ap Jevan ap Pellyn, a Denbighshire man, and a tall archer, of whom are descended the race of the Pellyns, he placed in the tenement of Garth. He alsoe placed Gruffith ap Tudor, a Denbighshire man, in Rhiw Goch ; as likewise Jevan David ap Ednyfed, an Abergeley man, (who felled, in one day, eighteen oakes, towards the building of a parte of Penanmenhouse), in Bwlch y kymid. Lastly, he placed Robert ap Meredith in Berthios, whose sonne John ap Robert was dayry-man there untill the beginning of my time. [And manie others, too long to be repeated. — Bala MS.]

In Ddanhadog he found Rys ap Robert, a tall stout man, who being originally (as they say) a Vaynoll Banger\* man borne, and a freeholder, killed a man there, forsook his land, and fled thither. Rytharch and Richard ap Rys ap Robert were my father's fosters ; and from the said Richard ap Rys ap Robert is lineally descended Humphrey Jones † of Craveleyn, Gentleman. Diverse other tall and able men dwelt in the countrey, which drew to him, as to their defender and captaine of the countrey, soe as within the space of

\* So called from being near Bangor, to distinguish it from other places bearing that name.

† Receiver General of North Wales, and ancestor to Mawris Jones of Ddôl. The heiress of Ddôl in Edernion married Mr. Parry of Llanrhaidr, from whom the present Richard Parry, Esq. of Llwyn-y-nn and Plas newydd is lineally descended.—P. E.







certaine yeares, he was able to make seven score tall bowmen of his followers, arrayed, as I have credibly heard, in this manner. Every one of them had a jacket or armolett coate, a good steel cappe, a short sword and a dagger, together with his bow and arrowes ; most of them alsoe had horses, and chasing slaves\*, which were to answer the crie upon all events.

Whereby he grew soe strong that he began to put back and to curbe the sanctuary of thieves and robbers †, which at times were wont to be above a hundred, well horsed and well appointed.

It is to be noted likewise, that certaine gentlemen and freeholders dwelt in the countrey, but not many, who were to answer the crie, and to come also upon the like distress.

**The Issue of MEREDITH AP JEVAN AP ROBERT of Keselgyfarch  
Gwedir, Com. Carn.**

By his first wife Alice, sixth daughter of William Gruffith ap Robin of Cochwillan, he had,

I. William Wynne, who died without issue,

II. John Wynne ap Meredith of Gwedir. *Sheriff of Carnarvonshire, A. 2. Ed. 11.*

III. Rees Wynne.

IV. Rytherch.

V. Margaret, wife first of Rees ap David ap Guillim of Anglesey,

\* Q. staves, i. e. hunting spears. P.

† This was before described to be Yspyty Evan, which belonged to the Knights Hospitallers, and is not far from Dolwyddelan, where this chieftain resided. These Knights had St. John for their patron, and hence it is possibly called Yspyty Evan ; it is now a small village situated on the Conway. Dr. Davies renders Yspyty hospitium.

‡ David ap Rees, the son of Rees ap David ap Guillim, was Sheriff of Anglesey in 1567.

then of Jevan ap John ap Meredith of Brynkir, and after him of Robert ap Meredith of Bronhaulog.

VI. Jonet, wife first of Edmund Gruffith, son of Sir William Gruffith the elder Knight, after him of Sir John Puleston, Knight.

VII. Catherine Lloyd, wife of Rowland Gruffith of Plesnewidd.

VIII. Catherine Gwinniow, wife of Lewis ap Jevan ap David of Festiniog.

IX. Lowry, wife of Rytherch ap David ap Meredith of Bala.

X. Margaret, wife of Thomas Gruffith Jenkin.

By his second wife Gvenhover, daughter of Gruffith ap Howell y Farf, relict of Robert Gruffith of Porthaml,

XI. Elizabeth, wife of John ap Robert ap L'n\* of Penllech.

XII. Elen.

By his third wife Margaret, daughter of Morris ap John ap Meredith, he had,

XIII. Humphrey Meredith, of Keselgyfarch. *living 26<sup>th</sup> Eliz.*

XIV. Cadwalader of Wenallt, father of Thomas, father of Cadwalader, father of John Vaughan, father of Cadwalader, M. A.†

XV. Elen, wife of Edward Stanley, Constable of Harddlech.

XVI. Jane, wife of Cadwalader ap Robert ap Rees, of Rulas.

XVII. Agnes, wife of Robert Salisbury.

\* This contraction is probably for Llewelin. Yes!—P. E.

† Degrees were at this time considered as the highest dignities, and it may not be improper to observe, that a clergyman who hath not been educated at the universities, is still distinguished in some parts of North Wales, by the appellation of *Sir John, Sir William, &c.* Hence the Sir Hugh Evans of Shakespeare is not probably a Welsh knight, who hath taken orders; but only a Welsh clergyman, without any regular degree from either of the universities.

‡ He was dead *the 26<sup>th</sup> Eliz.* his wife, Jonet, dau. of Thos. ap. Rhos then living.

† Rytherch ap David appears from a deed at Peniarth to have been a Justice of the Peace for the Co. of Merioneth on the 17<sup>th</sup> of Aug. in the 2<sup>d</sup> & 3<sup>d</sup> year of Ph. & Mary.

*§ The settlement prior to the marriage of Robt. hydra of Glyn with Harwelle, a daughter of this Cadw. is dated in the 20<sup>th</sup> year of Eliz. His wife is still in the settlement of Nantgwyn.*

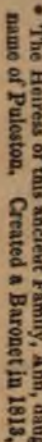








Sir John Wynn, of Gwydir, = Sidney, da of Sir William Gerrard,  
Bart so created in 1611. Lord Chancellor of Ireland.  
*ob. 1636.*



4. He was twice to Mr. Webster D.D. above mentioned.









## MEMOIRS, &c.

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THIS Country, in Queen Elizabeth's time, produced six that were Bishops in sundry places ; and the last in order, and the first to be remembered, (as the course of this History leadeth), was Henry Rowland, Bishop of Bangor, born at Meullteyrn,\* in Llŷn, son to one Roland ab Rhobet, an ancient Esquyre, who sat in that See eighteen years. He was sufficiently learned, for he preached twice, with approbation, before king James ; and was a good provident governour of his Church and Diocese, a great repairer of his decayed Cathedrall Church, and a great builder upon the glebe of diverse other Churches which he had in commendam. In house-keeping and hospitality, both to rich and poor, the greatest that hath been in our time, and yet dyed rich. And though he were in the commission of the peace continually, and in other commissions that came into the country, yet he would put them off as much as in him lay, having no will to deal but in his own element.

He left an Alms-house for six poor men in the town of Bangor. He hath left lands for two Fellowships in Jesus Colledge in Oxenforde, and other lands for the maintenance of a Free School in Llŷn at Bodtwnog, being the place that he was brought up himself

\* Of which place he became Rector in 1572 ; advanced to the Deanery of Bangor, August 21, 1593, from whence he was preferr'd, anno 1598, to the Bishoprick. He died July 6, 1616.





at school, and liberally left money to build it. He, with the voluntary contribution of his clergy, whereof he had the command in good will more than any before him, bought three fair bells for the steeple of the Cathedral Church of Bangor, they having but one before. He erected a monument there in the Church, with fair statutes of himself and of his cousin, the next precedent Bishop, Doctor Richard Vaughan, with the following inscription:

*Piæ memoriæ duorum Episcoporum in hac Ecclesia proxime succedentium, qui fuerunt contigue nati, Coetanei, sibi invicem cari Condiscipuli, Consanguinei; et illustri Familia Vaughanorum de Talhenbont in Evionydd Prior; Filius Thomæ ab Robert Vachan Generosi de Niffryn in Llŷn, Qui Sedem hanc per Biennium tenuit, deinde Cestrensem per Septem Annos; Postea Londinensem per Triennium tenuit, ubi vitam mensis martii ultimo An. Dom. 1607, immatura morte commutavit. Cujus Virtus post funera vivit: Pósterior Henricus Filius Rolandi ab Robert Armigeri de Melteyrn in Llŷn et Elisabeth filia Griffini ab Robert Vachan, Armigeri, de Talhenbont, qui annum Consecrationis suæ jam agit decimum octavum multosque agat feliciter ad honorem Dei & Evangelii propagationem, mutuo amore alter utrique hoc struxit monumentum mense maii, Anno Dom. 1616.*

*Orimur, Vicissim morimur,*

*Qui non precesserunt sequuntur.*

Next to him in that See preceded Richard Vaughan, \* D. D.

\* Of the same name, but not of the Talhenbont tribe, was Rhys Vaughn, (the faithful follower of Richard the Third), who ought to be mentioned with respect while fidelity is rewarded as a virtue. Richard was a tyrant, and the vilest of men; but he was Rhys Vychan's benefactor, and Rhys Vychan was grateful. The following well attested fact I translated out of an old MS. at

born also in Llŷn, descended of the Vaughns of Talhen-bont, an ancient house of Esquyres. He sat there two years, but never was at the Bishopric in all that time, for that the means and demesnes \* (demains) of the Bishopric was not able to find him being. A worthy housekeeper, and a liberal minded man, as the proof did manifest while he lived at Chester, whereto he was translated. He was an excellent and a rare scholar, a discreet and temperate man, and very industrious in his vocation, which shortened his days. He was translated from Chester to London by King James, in whose good grace and favour he lived as any other Bishop (whatever) whatsoever. He dyed a poor man, for he respected a good name more than wealth.

Caerwys: "Rhys Vychan was owner of great lands and possessions in Môn, Caernarvonshire; and Flintshire; he was Squire of the body unto Richard the Third, and did attend him in his Privy Chamber, and by patent was free Denizen within England. He had purchased from the king three goodly manors near Whitchurch, and had purchased Aber, Cemmis, and Wig, and diverse other things, which were all taken from him by Henry the Seventh. When Richard saw that Stanley was become a turncoat, and that the Welshmen had all revolted from him, he called for a (Boule) bowl of wine, sitting on horseback in his complete armour, and when the wine was brought him, he called unto Rhys Vychan, and drank unto him in these words, 'Here, Vychan, I will drink to thee, the truest Welshman that ever I found in Wales,' and, having drunk, threw the bowl over his head, and made towards his enemies, where he was immediately slain." Hereupon Rhys Vychan lost all his lands (which was begged by new Courtiers) before he could obtain his pardon. He married Marget Conway, and left two sons.

Qu: If Rhys Vychan be the "nameless Page" alluded to, by Horace Walpole, in his Historic doubts, as having made Richard the Third acquainted with Sir James Tyrrel's character, when Syr Robert Brackenbury refused to murder the young Princes in the Tower?

\* Sir John Wynn evidently alludes to Arthur Buckley, Bishop of Bangor, who granted a lease of all his lands in the hundred of Llŷn, by indenture dated 1547, ann. p. 6, to Gryffydd ab Madoc Vychan for a term of 99 years, at a reserved rent of nine pounds per. ann. It is worthy of remark that this lease expired the very year [1646] that the Parliamentary Commissioners were engaged in making a survey of the Bishop's lands, which is perhaps the reason that these lands (which must be of very considerable value) have not been since recovered. The Commissioners confess, that not having time to take the actual survey, they applied to William Lloyd of Plas-hên, who referred them to his steward Huw Lloyd, by whom they were informed, that the manor of Edern was leased by William, late Bishop, and William Lloyd of Plas-hên, for three lives, for the sum of nine pounds. vid. Survey of 1647.







Next before him was Nicolas Robynson, D. D.\* born in the town of Conway, in Caernarvonshire, was of honest parents and wealthy, whose father I knew Bailiff of the town, being chief officer, having by their charter authority to keep courts, with sergeants and under officers. He was an excellent scholar, and would have preach'd exceeding well, especially when he did it without premeditation, for then he exceeded himself; but upon meditation (in my conceit) not so well, for I have heard him at both; at St. Paul's in London, in time of Parliament, once, and in the country often; whereof I can attribute no occasion, but that he was extreme cholerick, and fearful withal, which, in my judgement, put him out of his natural bias: withal he was a very wise man. He dyed rich, and left many hopeful children, for whom he had well provided.

This county,† anon after the beginning of Queen Elisabeth's reign, produced three that were Bishops at once, born within or near the town of Conway. The one, Richard Davies, first of St. Asaph, after translated to St. David's, where he govern'd like himself, and for the honour of our nation, (loving entirely the North-wales men) whom he placed in great numbers there, having ever this saying in his mouth, (*myn y firi Faglog*), his familiar oath, "I will plant you, North-wales men, grow if you list." He kept an exceeding great post, having in his service younger brothers of most of the best houses in that country, to whom, with his own

\* Made Dean of Bangor March 3, 1556, and consecrated Bishop thereof on October 23, 1566. He died February, 1584—5, and was buried in the Cathedral Church near the altar; leaving five sons and one daughter, by his wife Jane, daughter of Randle Brereton.

† Caernarvon.

sons, Thomas, Peregrine, and Jerson, which I knew at Oxenford, both born at Geneva, he gave them good maintenance and education. He did stoutly confront Sir John Parrot, Knight, in those days an inward favourite of the Earl of Leicester, who afterwards was Lord Deputy of Ireland, and one of the Lords of the Privy Council, a man of great possessions in that country, (who would have wrong'd him). He called to him William Salusbury of Plasisa, near Llanrwst, in the county of Denbigh, and divers others, Welshmen, profound scholars, and skilful linguists, and translated the New Testament, the Psalms, and Book of Common Prayer into the Welsh tongue; and was very far onward with the Old Testament,\* and had gone through with it if variance had not happen'd between him and William Salusbury, (who had liven with him almost two years in that business), for the general sense and etymology of one word, which the Bishop would have to be one way, and William Salusbury † another, to the great loss of the old British and mother tongue; for, being together, they drew Homilies, Books, and divers other Tracts in the British tongue, and had done far more if that unlucky division had not happen'd, for the Bishop lived five or six years after, and William Salusbury about

\* Dr. Richard Davies translated the Old Testament from Joshua to the end of Samuel into English, besides several of the Epistles. His father was David ab Gronw, who married Janet, daughter of David ab Richard, descended from Ednowen Bendew. They had other children besides Richard.

† William Salusbury was born at Plasisa, near Llanrwst, (descended from the Salusbury's of Lleweny). He composed a Welsh treatise on rhetoric, which was afterwards revised and published, by Henry Perry, B. D. He translated, and first published in print, the Epistles and Gospels for the whole year, in King Edward the Sixth's time. He published also the whole New Testament in Welsh, at the command, or by the direction, of the Bishops of Wales, to which Dr. Richard Davies prefixed an excellent prefatory Epistle that does him great credit.





twenty-four, but gave over writing, (more was the pity), for he was a rare scholar, and especially an hebrician, whereof there was not many in those days. This worthy Prelate, Richard Davies,\* was a poor Curate's son, who serv'd at Cyffin, within half a mile of the town of Conway, born at a place called Plas y Person. In Queen Marie's time he was fain to flee with his wife to Geneva; where, being an exceeding poor man, and living upon the contribution and alms of the fugitives there, he was so industrious that in three years time, or somewhat more, he attained the country language spoken in Geneva, which I think to be French. He served a Cure there, and preached; and, in the latter end, lived well thereby. Oh! how my heart doth warm by recording the memory of so worthy a man! He dyed poor, having never had regard to riches.

Thomas Davies, L. L. B.† and Chancellor of the Diocese of Bangor, born within three miles of the town of Conway, some say that he was born within the town, son to Davies‡ of Caerhŷn, Gent., was, after Richard Davies's translation, elected Bishop of St. Asaph, where he sat many years. He had at one time one

\* "Was Vicar of Burnham, and Rector of Maidsmorton, Co. Bucks. of which preferments he had been deprived in Queen Mary's reign, as it seems for being married: became nominated to the See of St. Asaph by Queen Elisabeth, 1559. On May 21, 1561, he was translated to St. David's, where he died 1581, at his Episcopal Palace at Abergwille, in the parish church of which place he was buried." Browne Willis.

† Consecrated Bishop of St. Asaph May 21, 1561. He died about Michaelmas, 1573, and was buried at Llanbedr, Co. Caernarvon. He dyed rich, and settled a scholarship on Queen's Coll. Cambridge.

‡ The Davies line ended in an heiress, who married the Rev. Hugh Jones of Brynhyrddyn, Mona; their daughter and heir Catherine married Ralph Griffith, in whose family Caerhun remains at this day.

brother called Gruffith Davis, high Sheriff of the county of Caernarvon, and another brother of his, Coroner, and another brother Escheator in the said county.

In Queen Marie's time sat William Glynn\* in Bangor; a great scholar, and a great hebrician, as by quotation of his books do shew, being rare in that time. He was a good and religious man, after the manner of that time. He was born in Hen-eglwys parish, in this county of Caernarvon: he was a Priest's son, as I have heard. Qu. of what kindred and house?

Another William Glynn, L. L. D. of the house of Glynnllifon, being an ancient house of Esquyres, proceeded before him as Suffragan to Bishop Skevington,† being Abbot of Bermoundsey, who never came into the country, but yet bestowed great costs on the Cathedral Church of Bangor, for he built the body thereof, and the bell tower, and furnished the same with bells, which were sold by the Bishop, Dean, and Prebends in King Edward the Sixth's time, when, as it was expected, that all the bells in England should have rung in the Courtiers purses; which likely had been so if the Duke of Somerset had stood longer. This man, i. e. Glynn, was of a stirring spirit, and a great housekeeper; spent all, and had a hand in all the great temporal affairs of the country as well as the spiritual. Qu. whether there was any before him of this county, that were Bishops of Bangor?

\* Consecrated Bishop of Bangor, 1555; died, aged 54, May 21, 1558, and was buried at his own Cathedral, near the Communion Table. He was a descendant from Einion ab Gwalchmai of Treveilir, a celebrated Welsh Bard, who flourished about the year 1240. Treveilir continued in the possession of his lineal descendants till the last owner sold it, in 1775, to William Evans Esq.

† Thomas Pace, alias Skevington, born at Skevington, in Leicestershire, succeeded as Bishop of Bangor by papal provision, dat. 7 Cal. Mar. 1508. He died in June, 1533, and was buried in the Choir of Beaulieu church, Co. Northampton, of which place he was Abbot. See Browne Willis.







William Morgan, D. D.\* born at Dolwyddelan, in the comot of Nant Conway, and county of Caernarvon; descended of the race of the bondmen of that town, servants (both he and his ancestors) to the house of Gwydyr, where he was brought up in learning. His first preferment was with myself, and by my means; he was first made Bishop of Landaff, and afterwards translated to St. Asaph, where he dyed † after he had sat there some two or three years. He translated the Old Testament into the Welsh tongue before he was Bishop, and while he was Vicar of Llanrhaidr yn mochnant, in the county of Denbigh, whence he had the benefit and help of Bishop Davis and William Salusbury's works, who had done a great part thereof; yet he carried the name of all. He repaired and slated the chancel of the Cathedral Church of St. Asaph, which was a great ruin. He died a poor man. He was a good scholar, both a grecian and hebrician. ‡

In Queen Elisabeth's time lived John Wynn, Doctor of the Arches, § born at Gwydyr, in the said county of Caernarvon, youngest son to John Wynn (of Gwydyr) ab Meredydd. In his

\* "That incomparable man for piety, industry, zeal for religion and his country, was the son of John Morgan, by his wife Lowry, daughter of Gwylm ab John, descended from Marchudd. He was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge, and was (first) Vicar of Welsh Pool, 1575, and thence preferred to the Vicarage of Llanrhaidr ym mochnent, Co. of Denbigh, and Diocese of St. Asaph, 1588." P. B. Williams.

Consecrated Bishop of Landaff in 1595. He published his Welsh Bible in 1588.

† Was translated from the See of Landaff to St. Asaph on September 17, 1601, where, dying on September 10, 1604, he was buried the next day, in the Choir of the Cathedral Church.

‡ The above account shews Sir John Wynn's pique against Bishop Morgan. Vide Yorke's R. Tribes.

§ Viz. Advocate in the Arches Court of Canterbury.

youth, being fellow of St. John's College, and Doctor of the University, he arrested John, Duke of Northumberland, who yielded unto him. He died without issue, and gathered a great estate, which he left to Gruffydd Wynn, second brother of that house. He was a learned man, and a bountiful housekeeper; and never married. He founded two Fellowships, and three Scholarships at St. John's College in Cambridge, whereof he had been Fellow. This small foundation hath God so blest, of fifty years standing at the most, that it hath produced in our own time the Right Honorable John Williams, D. D. Bishop of Lincoln, and Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England.

Owen Wynn, D. D. son to Gruffydd Wynn, and brother to the said founder, now master of that College. God grant that his mercy may follow the same society for ever.

James Ellis, Doctor of the Civil Law, and Chancellor of Peterborough, in Queen Elisabeth's time; son to Ellis Mauris, born in Cleneneu, Co. Caernarvon.

William Gruffith, Doctor of the Arches, one of the younger sons of William Gruffith of Caernarvon, born in Caernarvon, Judge of the Admiralty in North Wales, in Queen Elisabeth's time,

Mauris Glynn, Doctor of the Civil Law, son to Robert ab Meredydd, born at Glynnllifon, Co. Caernarvon. A younger brother of that house, was Dean of the Arches, died without issue, and what he had he left to religious houses. He lived in King Henry the Eighth's time, before the ruin of Monasteries.

Gruffith Williams, D. D.\* born at Treveilian, in the said county,

\* A folio volume of his works was printed in his life-time: its principal object seems to be the refutation of Popery.





of ancient freeholders, his mother well descended, being of the house of Penmynydd \* in Mona; a great scholar, and an industrious preacher of God's word, as appears by divers of his sermons in London, preach'd at St. Paul's Cross, and are extant in print, Also, he was Lecturer in St. Paul's for some eight years together; now Chaplain in Household to the Right Honourable the Earl Montgomery.

Owen Meredydd, sometime fellow of Alls Souls, in Oxenford, B. D.; an honest man, and a good scholar; son to Meredydd ab Tomas Gruffith, of Clynnog, Co. Caernarvon.

Edmund Griffith, B. D. † and now Dean of Bangor, born at Llŷn, in the same county, and a younger son to Gruffydd ‡ ab Sion Gruffydd of Cevenamlwch, of an ancient house, and a worthy gentleman in Divinity.

William Bryncir, Bachelor in Divinity, born at Bryncir, in the comot of Evionydd, in the said county, a younger son to Robert Bryncir.

The county of Caernarvon also produced Sir William Jones, § now living, who was Chief Justice of the King's Bench in the Realm of Ireland; and now is one of the Judges of the Common Pleas at Westmynster. He was born in Llŷn, at his own house, called Castellmarch, which is a very ancient house of gentlemen.

\* Owen Tudor was of that house.

† Became Dean of Bangor in 1623. Sir John Wynn dying in 1526, did not live to see him consecrated Bishop of Bangor, February, 1632. He died May 26, 1637, and was buried in his own Cathedral.

‡ Gryffydd ab Sion married Catrin, daughter of Sir Richard Buckley, of Baron Hill. Edmund was their fourth son.

§ Sir William Jones married Marget, daughter of Gryffydd ab Sion. They had four sons.

In King Henry the Sixth's time, there was also a Judge of Common Pleas, Jeffrey Coytmor, born in the hundred of Nant Conway, in this county of Caernarvon, of the Coytmors there, which were very gentlemen. His grandfather, Howell Coytmor,\* lieth buried under a fair monument in Llanrwst church, in the county of Denbigh. He was captain of a hundred Denbighshire men, with the Black Prince, at the field of Poytiers, where John, King of France, was taken. He lived at Henle upon Thames.

William Thomas, son and heir to Rhys Thomas, born in Caernarvon; captain of two hundred men out of North Wales; went with Robert, Earl of Leycester, to the Low Countries, where, finding Sir Thomas Morgan, and Sir Roger Williams,† and Sir Martyn Shink, the most forward of that army, associated himself with them, and especially with Sir Martyn Shink, and with him put himself and his company into Berke upon Rhyn; whereas, the Prince of Parma, with all his army, did invest him, and besieged them for a great time, omitting nothing that was to be perform'd for the winning of the same; but, in the end, he was fain to give it over; after which time, both Sir Martyn Shink and he came to the Earl of Leycester, to the camp before Suttroin, where, in that great skirmish, Sir Phillip Sydney was hurt to the death, and slain; a brave, courageous, wise gentleman as any in this country produced in his time, or for many ages before. He had been Page to the Duchess of Somerset, and was brought up under the same Tutors as her son the Lord Edward Somerset was, who was not much older

\* Dafydd, son of this Howel Coytmor, sold his paternal property, Gwydyr, to Jevan ab Mera-dydd, ancestor to Sir John Wynn, the historian.

† Of Penrhos, Monmouthshire.







than he. He could speak Latin, Italian, and French. It was thought that his Language was the occasion of his death ; for it is reported, that he yielded himself in the Italian tongue.—envious that he should possess such a prisoner, kill'd him in cold blood. These are reported, and whether true or no I cannot say ; but there he died.

Gruffydd Wynn, born at Gwydyr, second son of John Wynn ab Meredydd, serv'd in his youth Sir Edmund Knivett, Knight, Lord of the castle of Buckname, in Norfolk ; who, having had a quarrel in those days with the Lord Fitzwalter, son and heir to the Earl of Sussex, for his mother in law, the Earl's wife, with whom it was thought he was too familiar, retained a great many of our country gentlemen, on whom it was thought he did most rely for his safety. There served him at one time four of the house of Gwydyr, viz. next Gruffydd Wynn, Cadwalader Wynn ab Meredydd, John ab Rhys Wynn, and David Lloyd ab Rhys Wynn, brethren. Thomas Williams, father to Sir William Williams, Baronet, and one of the younger sons of William Williams the elder, of Cochwillan, and Edward Williams his brother, which also was a man at arms at Bullen, and servant to Lord Paget. Qu. whether he was his man or no.

Sir Edward Knivet, being a very gallant forward gentleman, was the first that, of the King's side, did set upon the rebels of Northfolk, who lay in the neighbouring village 500 strong, with thirty horse of his own servants, where he kill'd five or six of the rebels ; but there he receiv'd a blow, which, afterwards, was the occasion of his untimely death. From thence he rode to the Court,

to advise the state of the rebellion, and to get the King's pardon for those that he had kill'd. From the Court he return'd in great credit and authority with the Marquis of Northampton, the Lord Sheffield, and diverse other noblemen. Gruffydd Wynn was with Sir Edmund, and was of his Chamber, and with him in all places, and at the battle that was fought within the city of Norwich between the Marquis of Northampton, General for the King's forces, and Kett, wherein the King's men were put to the worst, and the Lord Sheffield and many other gentlemen kill'd. I have heard himself often reported, that his master and he were as forward as the Lord Sheffield; they were arm'd with white armour, capapee,\* &c. &c. and that he receiv'd such a blow at that time on the head that he staggar'd, and one of his horse ears were cut off with a gleeve † and thrust through the wythers; and if it had not been for the goodness of his horse he had never come off, who brought him to a park near the city, and there fell under him dead. And he did verily believe that the cause of the Lord Sheffield's death was the reason that he was in guilded armour, and therefore they sought after him more than others. ‡ Sir Edmund Knyvet's Lady was fain to flee by night from her house to Fremingham castle, where the King's daughter, the Lady Mary, then lay. The rebels came to Buckingham castle and burnt it, and made havoc of all that they found therein, for the people were all fled. The Marquis, and Sir Edmund, and the rest that survived, returning to the Court, the Earl

\* Polished steel was so called.

† A glaive, an ordinary cutting and thrust weapon of the Infantry, being a large blade on the end of a pole. See Dr. Meyrick's very valuable work upon ancient armour.

‡ Many instances occur of persons having been put to death for the sake of their armour.





of Warwick, and diverse other noblemen, as appeareth by the Chronicle of that time, and Sir Edmund, were sent down against the rebels, with a great army, where they fought with and overthrew them; and Kett was slain, whose nag and saddle being of russet velvet, Gruffydd Wynn brought home with him to Gwydyr, and the nag was call'd "Glâs Kett,"\* by his former master's name, while he lived.

After Sir Edmund's death, Gruffydd Wynn became servant to William, Earl of Pembroke, with whom he serv'd as a man at arms at Wyatt's field, in ranks that day with old William Mostyn, Esq. who serv'd the Earl also. His younger brother, Doctor Gwynn, made him his heir, and thereby advanc'd his estate much. He was the most bountiful housekeeper, both to rich and poor; a religious, stout, and wise man; and was high Sheriff of the two counties of Denbigh and Meirionydd. I bought him a commission to be Justice of the Peace in the counties of Caernarvon and Meirionydd, but he refused them. At his death, his living was worth a thousand pounds p. ann. and was wealthy withal.

Robert Wynn, born at Gwydyr, in the said county, third son to John Wynn ab Meredydd, serving Sir Phillip Hobbie, Knight, in his Chamber, (being one of the council of King Henry the eighth, and a great commander of his army), was with the King and his master at the siege of Bullen, where he receiv'd a shot in his leg, whereof he was long lame: notwithstanding all the surgery the King's men could afford, it was strange that the surgeons could not find it at first and have it out, but it remain'd in that place for

\* i. e. Kett's Grey.

the time beforementioned ; it was wont, sometimes in four years, sometimes in six years, to grieve him, drawing an inflammation to his leg, which by repercusives being driven back, he should be well again. First, he married Dorothy, daughter of Sir William Gruffydd, of Penrhyn, Knight, Chamberlain of North Wales, and widow to William Williams the younger, of Cochwillan, who was a woman in years, and with whom he lived till he was past three score and six years old. Afterward, he married a young gentlewoman, daughter of James Dymoc, of Willington, in the county of Flint, who, in his old age, brought him many children. Some six years after his last marriage, his wonted inflammation took him in the leg with an extraordinary vehemence, so that he supposed it would endanger his life ; in the end it grew to a heat, and he that was of his Chamber found with his probe a hard thing in the orifice, which he supposed a great scale of his shin bone : fearing least the same should rot, he being at my house at Gwydyr, I brought him to his chamber, desiring that I might see his man dress his leg afore he went to bed ; being unbound, and the sore open, I found with my nail a hard thing in the orifice, and of a great length ; so I call'd for the probe, and with the same search'd the wound deeper than his man durst, for fear of hurting him, and found that it was no bone, but the lead that had lain so long in his flesh ; and so sent for a surgeon to cut the dead flesh and skin and pull it out, which he did, and he was well recover'd, and felt no pain at all while he lived.

He was at the rummage and burning of Edenborough and Leith, in Scotland, and the memorable journeys mention'd in the Chro-







nicles in King Henry the Eighth and Edward the Sixth's time, excepting Marlborough field,\* in Scotland, whereat I did hear him say he was not. In the latter part of King Edward the Sixth's reign, his master was sent Ambassador to the Emperor Charles the Fifth, who was then in Hungary, with the greatest army that the Christians ever had, to confront Solymau the Turk, that came with 500 thousand men to conquer Christendom; at which service both his master and he was. His master being revoked by Queen Mary, and another placed in his stead, by reason of his religion being a protestant, found the Queen's countenance averted from him; whereupon, after he had kept his house for a while very privately, he desired of the Queen license to travel, which she granted with this addition, that she would give him leave, and all of his opinion, to travel out of the land and never return. He travelled not, but within a while after died in his own house, of melancholy and grief of mind. Robert Wynn, his servant, return'd home, and anon after married as aforesaid, and built a goodly house† in the town of Conway, in this county of Caernarvon, where he kept a worthy plentiful house all his time; and lieth buried in the church there, having two monuments, the one for himself, and another for his first wife.

Hugh Griffith,‡ son to Griffith ab John of Cefnamlwch, a very proper man, of a comely tall personage, was by his father put an

\* Qu. If Musselborough?

† This house still exists, opposite the Inn, and retains many proofs of the fanciful decorations of the period.

‡ He was third son of Griffith ab John, by Catrin Bulcley, and brother to Edmund Gryffydd the Bishop of Bangor. Page 111.

apprentice to a merchant adventure in London, whom he serv'd very honestly and well untill his years were out, and became factor, both for his master and others, in the parts beyond the seas: and passing from London towards his place of trade, with twelve hundred pounds, which he had taken up upon his own credit, was taken by the Dunkyrks and there imprisoned, and thence deliver'd by the means of Hugh Owen, who was the private council to the Prince of Parma. This Hugh Owen was born in this county, a younger brother of an ancient gentleman's house call'd Plás dû; he serv'd in great credit with the Earl of Arundel, and was a chief actor in the Duke of Norfolk's action, and was thought to be the wisest man amongst them; and when he saw that his counsel was not follow'd, travers'd his ground in time into Brussels, where he continued privy councillor to that state forty years, and until the end of his days. This Hugh Griffith being by his means released, and having paid his ransom, and having lost his credit irrevocable, gets a letter of mark, and furnish'd himself to sea, and proves there the worthiest, the most valiant captain of any nation that was at sea. In the end, within the straits lighting upon the ship of war of the King of Spain, that carried the King of Spain's treasure out of Italy into Spain, resolved either there to die or to win it, which, in the end, he did, after a most admirable fight for four or five days continuance, having slain the most valiant captain, being a Dutchman, and a great number of the soldiers, but having received a great loss by the other, himself being sore hurt, and his company so weakened that he was fain to be taken himself to Argier \* for refuge; where, either he died of his

\* Qu. Algiers.





hurts, or was poisoned, and his goods seized upon to the Turk's use. Robert Powell, one of his followers, returned home full of double pistols, who was searched, tortured, and beaten, to make him confess, as he told me himself. He also told me, that in the fight, which was long, fierce, and admirable, both parties would rest at times, and the captains parly, and drink one to another.

For martial men, our age hath produced out of this county Sir Mauris Griffith, Knight, born in the town of Caernarvon, and one of the younger sons of William Griffith. He served in the realm of Ireland all his youth, and was captain there; and for his good service received his degree: and liveth at this time in conachtat castell, which himself built, and is called Bala me Rusk: and he is one of the council of the province.

Captain Pritchard, born at Madryn isa, in Llŷn, in the said county of Caernarvon, younger brother to Griffith ab Richard, heir of that house; commanded with great credit 100 men, under the states of the Low Countries, in Queen Elizabeth's time.

Sir Richard Wynn, of Caernarvon, Knight, of the house of Bryncir, captain of a hundred men in Ireland, provost martial of Flushing, under Sir Phillip Sydney, sometime page to captain Ronelall, who was slain in the North of Ireland, whose armour he brought to Sir Henry Sydney, then Lord Deputy of Ireland, whose follower he was all his life time after: and after his death, and for his sundry good services, being knighted; and after having got the widow of captain Thomas-aforementioned in the country, lived at Caernarvon all the rest of his time. He was one of

the council of the marches ; keeping a very worthy house, being a religious, honest, and true-hearted man to his friend, having always in his mouth this saying, "Duw a diwedd da," which in English is. "God and a good end," which no question God did hear, for he made a christian and a good end, as Gryffydd Williams, \* Doctor in Divinity, now living, being his ghostly father at his end ; and respecting which, also, the Rev. Father, Lewis, now Bishop of Bangor, preaching the funeral sermon of William Glynn, of Glynnllifon, Knight, did remember persuading all to the imitation of him.

The memorable services of John Wynn ab Hugh,† born at Bodfel, in Llŷn, in the said county, whereof he was Lord, he now in this tract is not to be forgotten. He was standard-bearer to John Earl of Warwick, and afterwards Duke of Northumberland, in the great field fought between him and Kett, and the rebels of Northfolk and Suffolk near Norwich, in Edward the Sixth's time, his horse was slain under him, and himself hurt, and yet he upheld the great standard of England. There is mention of this shot made at the standard of England in the Chronicles of that time, for the which service the Duke of Northumberland bestowed upon him two fine things in Llŷn, viz. the Isle of Bardsey, and the Demesne House of the Abbot of Bardsey, near Aberdaron, called

\* See page 110.

† John Wynn ab Hugh was Sheriff of Caernarvon in 1551 ; and married Elsbeth, daughter to Sir John Puleston ; by her he had Hugh Gwynn Bodvel, Sheriff of Caernarvon in 1597, grandfather to Sir John Bodvel, Knight, likewise Sheriff of Caernarvon 1623, whose daughter and heir, Sara, married Robert Roberts, son of Lord Viscount Bodmyn, and their son, Charles, was created Earl of Radnor.







the Cowrtwith. The honourable mention made of his good service in the grant, which I have seen and read, a rare matter to find so good a master.



R. JONES, PRINTER, RUTHIN.

























